Apatang's office pivots to street numbering, mapping. PAGE 3
Ship leaks 80 tons of oil near Pacific UNESCO site in Solomons. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

'Labor pains could stunt gains'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI's current labor debacle will have an adverse effect on the Commonwealth's economic development and could ultimately undo the significant gains achieved in the last six years after a roller-coaster ride of almost a decade. The CNMI's gross domestic product for 2017 was at 25.1 percent, a large leap from a record-low -17.5 percent 10 years ago.

This could very well sum up Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' message to federal officials during his recent trip to Washington, D.C., he said during a press briefing he gave yesterday to provide a status update on the results of his trip.

At the U.S. Congress, Torres gave testimony in two separate legislative hearings in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, and led the CNMI delegation in other meet-

See LABOR on Page 4

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres briefs reporters about his recent trip to Washington, D.C. in connection with a House Natural Resources hearing on House Resolution 560 and the H-2B issue on Filipino construction workers.

Rota engine's $160K freight cost slammed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) described the $160,000 freight cost for a used 2-megawatt generator set for Rota as "unacceptable and unbelievable"—an amount that Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) also called "just unbelievable."

Speaking during a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board meeting yesterday, Propst questioned the estimated freight cost for the emergency pur-

See ROTA on Page 4

Street Market resumes tomorrow

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The weekly mini-festival that is more popularly known as the Thursday Night Market at the Garapan Fishing Base would resume tomorrow after being temporarily sidelined when essential electric components were blown away and damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu in late October 2018.

CNMI Arts Council executive director Parker Yobei affirmed the resumption of the weekly operation of the night market with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

See MARKET on Page 4

Yonsei Academy students and instructor Jihye Yun. Other photo shows Hans Xu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan music school bags 8 awards at TBMF

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A music school on Saipan handily won eight awards at the 2019 Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam, with four awards going to students who competed for the first time at the festival.

Eight Yonsei Academy students brought home seven gold medals and

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INSIDE

NATION
A deadly tornado rips through a rural Alabama community, killing at least 23 people.
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FOCUS
House Democrats launch a sweeping new probe of President Donald Trump.
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LIFE & STYLE
Luke Perry, who gained heartthrob status as rebel Dylan McKay on "Beverly Hills, 90210," has died.
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Local

CUC board takes up executive director's contract

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors discussed yesterday during an executive session whether to retain or not executive director Gary P. Camacho.

When *Saipan Tribune* left CUC's conference room at 2pm, the board, led by their chair Miranda V. Manglona, was still in executive session.

At the comment portion of the board's meeting, Senate vice president Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), CUC deputy director William Gilmore, and several CUC management staff expressed their support for Camacho's leadership.

Camacho was praised for his "exceptional management, leadership, and communication skills" to move CUC in the right direction, particularly during the recovery efforts from the destructions of super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu.

In February 2017, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter approved Camacho's appointment as executive director.

Carter waived the qualification requirement under the court stipulate order No. 1 to allow Camacho to serve as the executive director. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Ways & Means wants a clear view of the purse

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Ways and Means Committee is getting a clearer picture of the CNMI's revenues and other finances a few months after the islands were devastated by Super Typhoon Yutu. The committee met yesterday at the House chamber where fiscal analyst David Demapan presented the CNMI government's budget call for fiscal year 2020.

The Office of the Governor submitted a revenue estimate of $232,325,196 for fiscal year 2020—10 percent lower ($25,813,911) compared to the $258,139,107 budget for fiscal year 2019.

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) also called for a separate meeting last week with Department of Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson.

Committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) said they wanted to come up with the best way of having a balanced CNMI budget based on Demapan's assumptions and his take on the numbers provided by the Office of Management and Budget, where a 10-percent reduction in the government's revenues is expected.

"I wanted this meeting so [committee] members could ask questions on where the 10 percent is [coming from and] why…one of the reasons being the typhoon [Yutu]. It is just for the members to gain some understanding, but the result of the meeting is, there are more questions than answers," said Blanco.

"The members asked that we reach out to Finance and OMB, to invite them so we can ask questions prior to the submission of the budget. What would be the revenues for the [last months of] 2018, [start of] 2019, and the outlook for 2020, minus that 10 percent. Where is it going to get cut?"

Blanco added that, based on Demapan's presentation, the 10 percent is not applied to earmarks and debt service payments. "So, in his [Demapan] presentation, when we applied the 10-percent cut, then we would realize a $3.3 million plus in additional funding or revenue that would be available."

He said he has heard different figures on how much revenues the CNMI has collected in the first two quarters of the 2019 fiscal year. "I believe, it was $7 million [in the] budget call. I'm also hearing $11 million. Until I see the official numbers, then we are going to work on those."

"That's why we need communication from OMB and Finance. We need to sit down with them to know where do we go from here. We're likely to invite and sit down with them next Tuesday [March 12]. The following week will be crunch time for them because April 1 is the deadline."

He added the committee just wanted to know the projections. "The members have some questions too. If the numbers are still coming in, that's fine with us. But at least we would like to know the projections."

"What to expect, what's happening, and what do [they] need us to do in order to balance the budget. That's our [Legislature] job—to ensure that we have a balanced budget based on the revenues that are coming in."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the reduction in the revenue estimates that his office submitted could go as high as 15 percent, which is why they have already informed the Legislature about the possible reduction. "We are seeing at least 10 to 15 percent [cut] for this current fiscal year budget."

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Apatang's office pivots to street numbering, mapping

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Apatang

The Saipan Mayor's Office announced yesterday that it would be working with an engineering firm to continue the street numbering and mapping project on Saipan, 31 years after the passage of the law that mandates it.

The Saipan Street Directory Commission project is finally moving forward, with the Saipan Mayor's Office working with engineering company Henry K. Pangelinan and Associates LLC to revive the street numbering and mapping on Saipan.

Right now, the commission consists of the Saipan mayor, the Department of Public Works secretary, the Department of Public Safety commissioner, and the Department of Public Lands secretary, and is responsible for developing a Saipan street, name, and numbering map.

"This project will benefit a lot of people in the community," said Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang yesterday in a press conference at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room, adding that it would be especially beneficial to emergency services and postal services personnel.

The project is expected to take about six to seven months and cost about $64,000.

The finished product, according to Saipan Mayor's Office chief of staff Henry Hofschneider, would include GPS mapping, or global positioning system, a way to digitally access the map on the internet.

The numbering of lots as well as many other required information would require a lot of survey work. Because of that requirement, Apatang asks for the community's patience and cooperation for any survey-work that may be done on private property.

"We are asking the public to please work with us if you see [Pangelinan's] crew," said Apatang, adding that the Saipan Mayor's Office would be furnishing these personnel with special badges.

"We are now in the…street numbering [phase]. The time to do this is about six to seven months altogether," said Henry Pangelinan, the owner of the engineering firm, at the press briefing. He said his team has already done the mapping for the project.

According to Pangelinan, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation already approved the street names. Altogether, he said, the delegation already made 24 changes to the street names.

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LABOR

From Page 1

ings with federal officials to discuss issues surrounding the decision to rescind the CNMI's parole program and the Philippines' removal from the H-2B visa program.

One of the hearings was with the U.S. House of Representatives' Natural Resources Committee called by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) for his H.R. 560.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security had removed the Philippines from the list of countries eligible for the H-2B visa, while U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services discontinued the CNMI program.

Torres, in yesterday's press conference, said other investors, aside from Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, could not get their respective projects started due to the lack of laborers in the CNMI. "IPI is still committed but they are one of the companies that are also hit [with parole and H-2B visa decisions]."

"Before, the construction workers were under the CW-1 [program], then they removed that and put them in H-2B [visas]. A year later they cut the Philippines [from H-2B]. My other concern are those companies that have already invested and want to build hotels and could not get off the ground. For IPI, it is one of those unfortunate situations for them."

There are hotel development projects ongoing in San Antonio, Tanapag, and Capital Hill, to name a few, and Torres said these developments mean a loss in possible revenue for the CNMI. "Most projects down here…have not yet started. What will happen to them?"

"These are lost revenues as part of our projection. Those other businesses…have not started yet. It could be millions of dollars in revenue loss and potential growth that we won't be seeing anytime soon, unless things change."

He gave IPI as an example that, despite struggling to complete its casino-hotel project, would keep its operations in the CNMI after already investing hundreds of millions of dollars, which gave the Commonwealth's economy a needed boost.

Torres said some investors are having second thoughts about putting up businesses here due to the current labor climate of the CNMI. "There are some who were excited to move their companies here. Now, they are thinking whether to push through or not. And that's loss of revenue. It will take years before having that investment back in the CNMI."

Governor's plea

Torres, in their meeting with their federal counterparts, informed officials like DHS that some policies and regulations have a different effect on the CNMI and other territories.

"It's just so hard for us, because we live here. I have echoed this in this trip. …We have folks in D.C. that have never been here. I told all of them, 'Before you start making decisions, you come to our islands, because we are the first line of security or defense out here. Come down here before you continue making decisions.'"

ROTA

From Page 1

chase of a used 1992 2-megawatt generator to provide reserve power on Rota.

Manglona urged the CUC board to take a step back with the emergency purchase because the electric power situation on Rota now is different from a month ago.

CUC chair Miranda V. Manglona assured Propst that what she had in mind as a representative of Rota was that CUC does not put a price tag on the community of the island.

Miranda Manglona said they want to procure that generator as soon as possible because Rota was then experiencing power outages and that it doesn't matter who the vendor is.

"What we had in our mind is the community of Rota. We don't want Rota continue to have all those outages," she said, assuring Propst that they are going to diligently do their job with the guidance of the Office of the Attorney General.

As for Sen. Manglona's comments, she said they are confident that the OAG will steer them in the right track.

CUC's procurement officer Manny Sablan, power generator manager Richard Cano, and contracting officer John Mafnas explained to the board about how the quotations were made to the vendors for the emergency purchase of the generator and the $160,000 freight cost.

The $160,000 that is for unit and equipment freight cost and apparently includes logistics—not just for shipping.

CUC director Matthew Holley said he has a concern with the emergency purchase that he wants to discuss during their executive session.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the CUC conference room, the directors were still in executive session about the emergency purchase as well as about executive director Gary P. Camacho's employment contract.

During the meeting's public comments portion, Propst said the contract that is on the table right now is to purchase a used 2-megawatt generator in the amount of $690,000 to provide reserve power to Rota.

Propst said the breakdown of the cost includes several factors and there are a few where he has some concerns, but perhaps none as great as the cost for unit and equipment freight, which will cost CUC ratepayers $160,000.

"This is unacceptable and unbelievable," he said. "And I say this because, if you have ever done any freight forwarding, or even if you talk of grocery stores that ship in containers from the [U.S.] mainland to Saipan, the cost is less than $10,000. That's for frozen goods."

Propst said they know that it doesn't cost anywhere in the neighborhood of $160,000 and that was the first red flag.

He said the actual cost for a 40-foot container from the U.S. mainland to Saipan without refrigeration requirements is about $8,935. He said it will take 90 days together to bring a 40-foot container from the United States to the CNMI.

Propst said his understanding is that the reason why it's going to cost $160,000 is because this includes the rental of a crane. The lawmaker said CUC ratepayers should not have to pay for the rental of the crane.

"No ratepayers should pay for that cost," he said.

That cost should be borne by the Commonwealth Ports Authority if it refuses to ensure that Rota Terminal & Transfer, which operates stevedoring services on Rota, would pay for it, Propst said.

He pointed out that, based on Rota Terminal's contract, they are required to provide that crane service. "However, they [could] not because [their crane is] broken. …Whatever their excuses," he said.

"But this is not only impacting CUC. This is impacting the people of Rota, [who are] trying to get medical supplies, rice, and other things," he said.

Propst said he certainly does not want to ever take a chance to see that the people go without power on Rota. "We understand the importance of getting reserve power. However, there are other options."

One, Propst said, there is a 1.5-megawatt backup Caterpillar engine on Rota right now that just needs to be fixed. "From what we have been told, the parts and everything to fix this and rehabilitate this Caterpillar engine is already here on Saipan," he added.

Once the parts are brought to Rota, CUC mechanics can work on it and get it operational again, Propst said.

"So, if the crane is working and if we can get a ship to bring this is in for a reasonable price, then we should do it," he said.

Propst said a shipping operator that they talked to stated that they can bring a 40-foot container to the East Harbor on Rota for a mere $14,500. "A mere fraction of what we are talking about," he pointed out.

The other concern, Propst said, is that there has been a notice-to-proceed to purchase a brand-new engine for Rota. He said the total cost for this brand-new engine is $315,000.

Propst said this engine was approved by the board at the end of January and that the contractor said it would take two to four months to bring here.

"Tthis brand-new engine that CUC has already procured…will be the main source for power of Rota, from what we have been told," he said.

Propst suggested that CUC can perhaps call this company and tell them that there is a dire need for Rota to have power and request to get this new engine earlier. This is still going to save CUC a lot of money, he said.

"$690,000 for a reserve unit that's a used unit…is a concern because, as we all know, we are faced with a $26-million deficit right now," Propst said.

Citing past CUC deals, Propst said there are "bad actors" that are coming to CUC that have tried to make a fortune. Propst said CUC should have debarment rules and regulations to stop these "bad actors" from bidding on contracts.

"Please understand that I come here not to oppose you or to attack or demonize you. That's not my point. I am actually here to plead with you," he said.

Sen. Manglona said CPA executive director Christopher Tenorio informed him Monday that CPA has approved the opening of East Harbor for shallow draft shipping vessels to accommodate the shipping services needs of the people of Rota.

Manglona said Tenorio disclosed that CPA obtained the approval from Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig, who has jurisdiction over this harbor.

"That's a significant development because these vessels can actually carry at least two 40-foot containers," the senator said.

"This $160,000 is really just unbelievable. Even all the way from the East Coast, it is still too much for us to bear," he said.

Manglona also discussed the repairs done on the generators on Rota.

MARKET

From Page 1

"We are good to go this week," he said, adding that his office had already met with regular vendors.

Yobei had noted in an interview in mid-February that they expect the resumption of the street market in mid-March 2019 at least.

Do not expect anything fancy to mark the event's resumption. The re-opening the mini-festival was the main priority, according to Yobei.

He did not rule out the possibility, though, of having a special celebration in the future to highlight the re-opening of the street market.

For the moment, the street market would re-open with a total of 35 vendors—25 food vendors and 10 non-food vendors.

"They are very eager to open again and they missed the street market on Thursday," he added.

Yobei said his office made sure that vendor permits are up-to-date before allowing them to participate in the weekly event.

"We are redoing our registration to make sure everybody's requirements are complete, such as their business licenses, sanitation permits, etc. As long as they are up-to-date, they may participate in the street market," he said.

The weekly street market had not been open since the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu across southern Saipan and Tinian in late October 2018. Electrical components such as two weather heads, 12 panel boxes with eight outlets each, two meter boxes, and more equipment were blown away during the typhoon.

MUSIC

From Page 1

one silver medal, including Hans Xu, Ruby Zhang, Jemima Lin, Jennifer Woo, Sua Kim, Judy Liang, and Kate Ishida. One student, according to a press release from the school, was unnamed.

The unnamed student won silver at the annual music competition, and is reportedly going back to South Korea.

Xu played *Impromptu Op. 29* on the piano and is a 7th grade student at Grace Christian Academy.

"This piece was kind of hard for me because last year I practiced a piece with light finger with quick notes, but this year's piece required connected notes, which was a rather hard transition for me," he said. "I had to practice a lot so I could get used to all the connected notes and play better than before."

First-time competitors Lin and Zhang expressed gratitude to their piano teacher Jihye Yun. She also taught Xu and the other students.

"I appreciate that I got gold for my first time to join the Tumon Bay Music Festival," Lin said.

Woo, a 6th grader at Grace Christian Academy and also competing at the festival for the first time, said she is always nervous when doing contests and concerts. "I was nervous the entire time. I kept thinking that I might have been the worst [to perform]," she said. "But when it finished I realized that even if I made mistakes I can still do it! So, when it ended I was happy and proud of myself."

Kim, a 7th grader at Mount Carmel School, also competed at the 2018 TBMF and got silver. For the 2019 competition, she was able to get a gold.

"I tried my best, because it would be my last time for the TBMF. By this experience, I improved my piano skills. I think I got the gold medal because of my teacher and my efforts," she said.

Agape Christian Schools' Judy Liang, a senior, also won gold.

Kate Ishida, the only competitor to compete in the violin division and got gold, had been playing the violin for seven years and had competed at the TBMF as a soloist three times.

"It was really interesting this year because I only got three lessons from my violin teacher before the competition since he lives in Guam now," she said, adding that trouble brought by Super Typhoon Soudelor also affected her practice.

"I wanted to represent my island as the only solo violinist from Saipan and to show that we are resilient. I want to give a big thank you to my piano teacher and accompanist, Ms. Jihye Yun. She didn't have to, but she helped me with this piece and guided me when I was stuck. I also want to thank my violin teacher, Mr. Ai Zhang, for teaching me all these years and giving me the skills to be able to compete," she said.

"Yonsei Academy students have been winning competitions such as the Young Artists Competition and the TBMF consistently for two years," a statement from the music school noted. "…Yonsei Academy is getting ready for their Annual Music Concert in May."

For those interested in enjoying the student's performances, you may watch them on www.youtube.com under the Yonsei Academy Saipan channel.

Scheduled power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Friday, March 8, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Lateral outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Wireless Ridge
  - ❏ Area(s) affected: Wireless Ridge
  - ❏ Water well(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Pole replacement(s): 7
- **Saturday, March 9, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Lateral outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Capitol Hill
  - ❏ Area(s) affected: Thirteenth Hundred Block and Wireless Ridge
  - ❏ Water well(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Pole replacement(s): 7
- **Saturday, March 9, 2019 – 8am to 1pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Lower Papago
  - ❏ Area(s) affected: Lao Lao and Lower Papago
  - ❏ Water well(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Pole replacement(s): 1

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(PR)***

GRC physicians to hold clinic at CHC

Dr. Nathaniel B. Berg and Dr. Jeffery Shay of Guam Radiology Consultants are returning to the Commonwealth Health Center on Thursday, March 14, 2019, just two weeks after Shay's Feb. 28 visit.

Berg and Shay will be seeing patients at risk for or diagnosed with atherosclerotic peripheral vascular disease, or ASPVD. The clinic will be at the Radiology Department of CHC, from 9am to 4pm.

Send inquiries and referrals to cnmi@guamradioloy.com or fax to (671) 647-4600. Sheila Baisa, IR coordinator will assist. ***(PR)***

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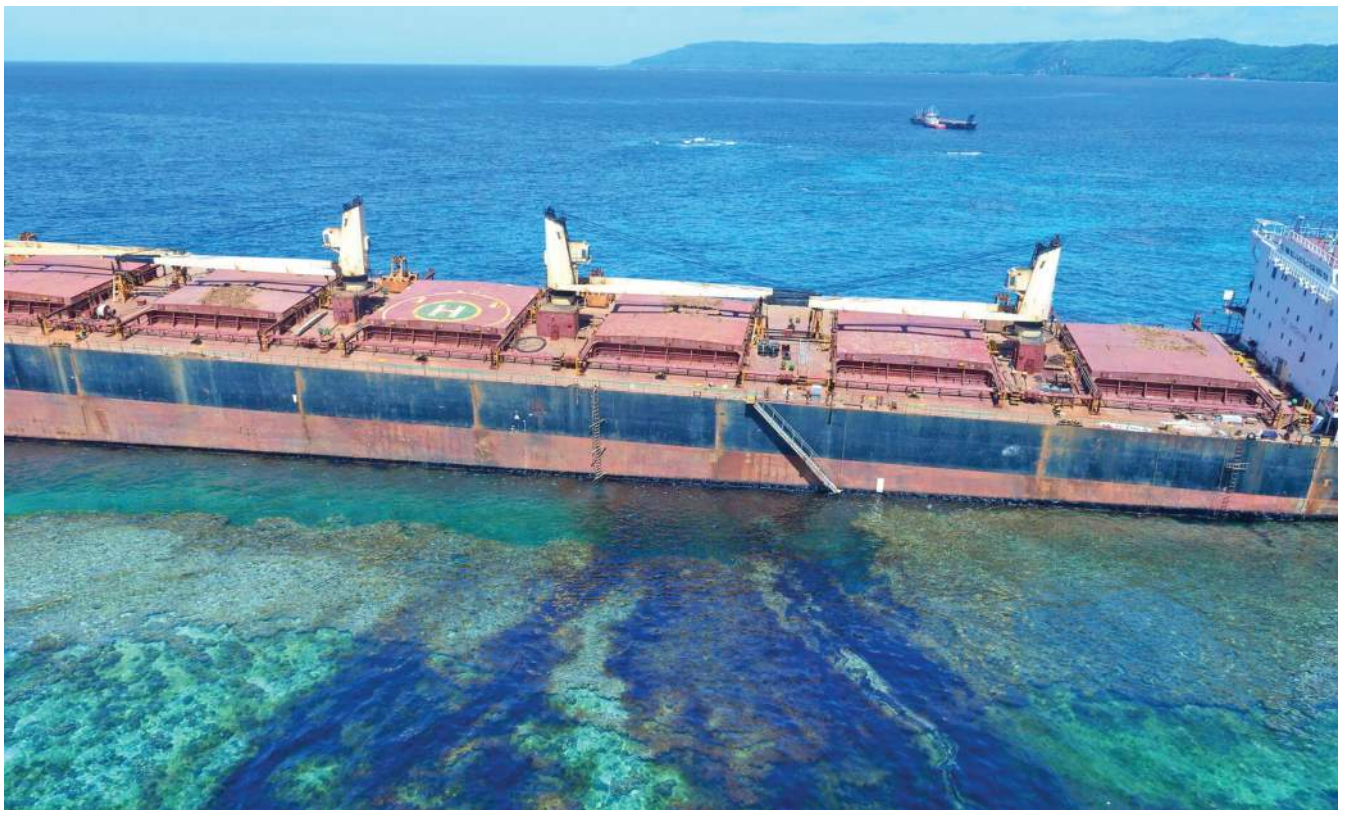
Ship leaks 80 tons of oil near Pacific UNESCO site in Solomons

By NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP
In this Feb. 26, 2019, photo taken by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority near Rennell Island in the Solomon Islands shows the MV *Solomon Trader* ship which ran aground Feb. 5.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—An environmental disaster is unfolding in the Pacific after a large ship ran aground and began leaking oil next to a UNESCO World Heritage site in the Solomon Islands, Australian officials said Friday.

Footage taken this week shows little progress has been made in stopping the *Solomon Trader* ship from leaking oil since it ran aground Feb. 5, according to the Australian High Commission in the Solomon Islands.

Australian experts estimate more than 80 tons of oil has leaked into the sea and shoreline in the ecologically delicate area and that more than 660 tons of oil remains aboard the Hong Kong-flagged ship, which is continuing to leak.

The ship was chartered by the Bintan Mining company in the Solomon Islands to carry bauxite, which is used in aluminum production.

Bintan Solomon Islands chief executive Fred Tang was not immediately available for comment Friday.

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said there was a high risk that the remaining oil would leak and it was "profoundly disappointed" by the slow response.

It said the Solomon Islands government had advised it that the responsibility to salvage the ship and mitigate the environmental impact lay with the companies involved.

Radio New Zealand reported that the ship's owner King Trader Ltd. had sent a team to help with the salvage operation while Bintan had claimed that as charterer, it had no legal responsibility for the ship or liability for the accident.

UNESCO has designated the southern third of Rennell Island as a World Heritage site. It says the island is the largest raised coral atoll in the world and is a "true natural laboratory" for scientific study.

It's also home to about 2,000 people, whom the High Commission notes rely on the ocean along with the natural resources of the island for their livelihoods.

Both Australia and New Zealand have sent experts to help with the monitoring of the oil spill and the potential salvage of the ship.

THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
SUMMER INTERNSHIP
WE ARE LOOKING FOR 15 CNMI-BASED COLLEGE STUDENTS, OR COLLEGE-BOUND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WITH AN INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT CORAL REEF AND COASTAL ZONE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. OUR SUMMER INTERNS WORK 20 HOURS A WEEK BETWEEN JUNE AND AUGUST (DATES TO BE DETERMINED) AND ARE PAID $8.00 PER HOUR.
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- CNMI EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION (which can be found at www.cnmiopm.net)
- COVER LETTER
- RESUME/CV
- TRANSCRIPTS (official or unofficial)
- TWO (2) LETTERS OF RECCOMMENDATION (instructors and/or employers only)
- POLICE CLEARANCE (within the last 3 months)
- COPY OF PHOTO ID (driver's license, passport, etc.)
NOAA CORAL REEF
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS APPLICATION, PLEASE EMAIL JIHAN YOUNIS AT OUTREACH@DCRM.GOV.MP OR MALLORY MUNA AT MMUNA@DCRM.GOV.MP OR CALL THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AT 664-8300.

NMC Info Session tomorrow

Individuals who are interested in enrolling in Northern Marianas College's spring 2019 semester can still apply for federal financial aid. This along with other topics will be discussed in the free NMC Info Session scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, March 7, 2019.

The information session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at college's Olympio T. Borja Library at the As Terlaje campus.

In addition to the admission process, the information session will cover financial aid options that are available for the spring 2019 semester. This will include the Federal Financial Aid program which uses the FAFSA.

The Federal Financial Aid program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Through the program's various types of grants, loans, and scholarships, the Federal Financial Aid program is the largest financial aid provider in the U.S.

Attendees of the information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming spring 2019 semester, a savings of about $75.

The first day of classes will be on April 1, 2019, but interested applicants are encouraged to apply early to register for courses and for financial aid.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs. For more information about registering for classes or to apply for admission, contact the college's Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

'Convicted alien for deportation should get lighter sentence'

Convicted aliens who will be deported anyway should get lighter sentences, according to David G. Banes, who is the lawyer for a Japanese businessman who is awaiting sentencing for engaging in fraud in connection with the applications for CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program or CW-1 permits.

Citing Kosuke Tomokiyo's personal history and lack of criminal history, Banes recommended to the U.S. District Court for the NMI to impose a probation sentence only on Tomokiyo or, at worst, a month of home confinement, as he poses no realistic threat to society.

Banes said his client's impending deportation mitigate the amount of imprisonment necessary to punish Tomokiyo.

Tomokiyo will be sentenced on March 11 at 1:30pm.

Banes said it is very unlikely that the 55-year-old Tomokiyo will commit more crimes, given that this is his first conviction and he is already a deportable alien. Banes said deportation itself is a punishment.

Banes pointed out that the U.S. Probation Office agrees that Tomokiyo played a minor role in the fraudulent scheme at the center of this case.

He said it is clear from the allegations in this indictment and the investigation reports that Mizanur Khan was the mastermind behind the fraud.

The court should also consider, he said, that Tomokiyo helps support three minor children, and two minor live with him here on Saipan and he helps supports his wife's younger brother.

The U.S. government, through assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, also recommended a sentence of probation and a fine of $5,000.

O'Malley said the U.S. government does not believe that Tomokiyo needs to be imprisoned in order to protect the public.

O'Malley said the U.S. government believes that a sentence of probation and a fine will deter Tomokiyo and others who may be tempted to engage in this type of crime.

Tomokiyo pleaded guilty to one count of fraud and misuse of visas for a scheme in which he obtained a CW-1 permit by conspiring with Khan.

As part of the scheme, Tomokiyo agreed to provide Khan with capital to start a small business called K.C.A. Corp.

In exchange, Khan and K.C.A. sponsored Tomokiyo as one of its employees, even though he was not, in fact, an employee.

Tomokiyo and Khan sustained this scheme for three years, twice submitting information to USCIS in order to obtain CW-1 renewals.

O'Malley noted that Tomokiyo was willing to testify against Khan and, although Khan's case was also resolved by a plea agreement, there was no reason to believe that Tomokiyo would not have testified honestly if called to do so.

O'Malley said the U.S. government has seen no evidence that Tomokiyo was involved in other illegal activities while in the CNMI, but believes he merely wished to reside here as a *de facto* tourist.

However, O'Malley said, the offense was not without harm.

At the very least, he pointed out, it likely deprived a CNMI employer of a needed foreign work.

"It also likely removed an opportunity for the putative foreign worker to make a better living," he said.

He said Tomokiyo's behavior also damaged the reputation of the CW-1 program, on which the CNMI's economy has grown dependent, and whose continued existence—especially at the time of the offense—was precarious.

According to court documents, Tomokiyo was vice president and part-owner of K.C.A. Corp. Khan, who was president and part-owner of the company, was charged with four counts of fraud and misuse of visas and permits and two counts of mail fraud.

According to the indictment, on Aug. 5, 2015, Khan lied to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that three foreign workers would be employed by K.C.A. as an "operation service worker (charcoal maker)" and that they would be employed in that capacity for 40 hours per week, for a period of one year.

On Aug. 22, 2016, Khan and Tomokiyo allegedly lied to USCIS that Tomokiyo had previously been and was to be employed by K.C.A. as a "sales manager," and that Tomokiyo had been employed in that capacity since January 2016. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Precinct 2 forum today

The "Our Sense of Place" forum, hosted by Precinct 2 Rep. Tina Sablan, is set for today, March 6, at WSR Elementary School cafeteria, starting at 5:30pm.

This free public forum is a follow-up to the meeting Sablan held last October, and will include a presentation of interactive maps developed for the precinct, and a summary of valued places and concerns highlighted by community members. This week, participants will be asked to help prioritize the issues they see as important for restoring and revitalizing their villages.

Precinct 2 includes Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, Fina Sisu, As Lito, and As Perdido. For more information or to RSVP, contact Sablan's office at 664-8829 or email rep.sablanc@cnmileg.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Military trainings set

ASAN, Guam—Military units participating in COPE North 2019 is conducting training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla until March 8, from 8am to 7pm.

Also, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit is conducting training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada until March 8, from noon to 4pm.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct an open-ocean, live-fire gunnery exercise tomorrow, March 7, from 10am to 11:55pm.

Military units participating in Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training 2019 will conduct training from midnight to 11:59pm, March 7-10, at Warning Area 517.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course.

The open-ocean exercise will take place within a 10-nautical mile radius of the following coordinates: 13° 26"N/145° 08"E, 13° 42"N/144° 36"E. It is recommended the public, commercial pilots, fishermen and marine tour operators stay clear from this area during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. ***(PR)***

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COPE North 2019

Members from the U.S. Air Force, Japan Air Self-Defense Force, and Royal Australian Air Force prepare for movement during exercise Cope North 19 on Tinian on Feb 28, 2019. COPE North is an annual multilateral U.S. Pacific Air Forces-sponsored field training exercise focused on combat air forces large-force employment and mobility air forces humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training to enhance interoperability among U.S., Australian and Japanese forces.

U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT JT MAY III

A U.S. Air Force C-130J Super Hercules, assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron, prepares to land on the flight line on Tinian during exercise Cope North 19 on Feb. 20.

U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT JT MAY III

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Johnson, 36th Mobility Response Squadron vehicle maintenance craftsman, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, uses a forklift to load supplies at Camp Baker on Tinian last Feb 26, 2019.

U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT JT MAY III

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Johnson, 36th Mobility Response Squadron vehicle maintenance craftsman, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, uses a forklift to load supplies at Camp Baker on Tinian last Feb 26, 2019. Camp Baker was one of the locations for Cope North 19.

U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT JT MAY III

Medical service members from Japan Air Self-Defense Force prepare a stretcher for patient transport during exercise Cope North 19 on Tinian on Feb. 27, 2019.

U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT JT MAY III

Medical service members from the Japan Air Self-Defense Force carry U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Kelly Destiny, 36th Mobility Response Squadron, during Cope North 2019 at Camp Baker on Tinian last Feb. 27, 2019.

U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT JT MAY III

A Royal Australian Air Force member prepares to build tents exercise during Cope North 19 on Tinian last Feb 26, 2019.

U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT JT MAY III

Two U.S. Air Force members with the 36th Mobility Response Squadron, prepare to collapse a tent during exercise Cope North 19 on Tinian last Feb. 28, 2019.

U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT JT MAY III

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-015

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT (W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of gate valve assembly, PRV installations, PRV CMU protective boxes, fencing, restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 13th, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-015, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 4, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 21, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-014

SADOG TASI PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-014, Sadog Tasi Primary Screen Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety, Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 8, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Disaster response in Indo-Pacific gets tweaked

By GREGORY JOHNSON
COMMANDER, LOGISTICS GROUP WESTERN PACIFIC

Pacific Partnership 2019 mission commander Capt. Randy Van Rossum shakes hands with Royal Navy Capt. Paddy Allen, director of mission, during an all-hands call aboard the Military Sealift Command expeditionary fast transport USNS Brunswick prior to the Brunswick's departure.
MCS3 CHANEL L. TURNER

The U.S. Navy joined allied and partner nation forces for the 14th Pacific Partnership mission that began last March 4. This annual maritime operation will help improve disaster response preparedness, resiliency and capacity while enhancing partnerships with participating nations and civilian humanitarian organizations throughout the Indo-Pacific.

Pacific Partnership is the largest annual, multilateral disaster response preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. This year's mission will be led by Commander, Destroyer Squadron 1, embarked in the expeditionary fast transport ships USNS *Brunswick* and USNS *Fall River*.

It will include more than 500 military and civilian personnel from Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Peru, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

"Pacific Partnership is about building trust and sharing knowledge," said Rear Adm. Joey Tynch, commander, Task Force 73, the executive agent for Pacific Partnership 2019. "This mission shows that the U.S., our partners and hosts are working together to making this region better prepared for disaster response."

Experts in the fields of engineering, medicine and disaster response will partner with each host country to conduct civic-action projects, community health exchanges, medical symposiums and disaster response training activities.

Engagements between Pacific Partnership participants and host nations are intended to improve capacity, enhance regional partnerships and increase multilateral cooperation for disaster preparedness.

"Pacific Partnership brings nations together to prepare in calm to respond in crisis," said Capt. Randy Van Rossum, commodore, Destroyer Squadron 1, the mission commander for Pacific Partnership 2019. "Our mission team, made up of servicemembers and volunteers from around the world, reflects this enduring commitment to the region."

Pacific Partnership began in response to one of the world's most catastrophic natural disasters, the December 2004 tsunami that devastated parts of South and Southeast Asia. The mission has evolved over the years from emphasis on direct care to an operation focused on enhancing partnerships through host nation subject matter expert and civil-military exchanges.

Pacific Partnership 2019 will have several distinctions from previous iterations:

■ This year's mission will be conducted from aboard two expeditionary fast transport ships, which provide rapid intra-theater transport and have the capability to conduct relief operations in small or damaged ports.

■ This year's planning and activities reflect the region's interest in building Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief capability and strengthening resilience.

■ This is the second year a multinational command-and-control structure will be used, consisting of a director of mission from the United Kingdom and mission chief staff officer from Australia.

■ Pacific Partnership will continue to leverage the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, a plan backed by Executive Order 13595 and UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Integration of WPS into Pacific Partnership yields opportunities to engage with partner nations on the topics of gender integration and gender perspectives, as well as preparedness in dealing with vulnerable populations (women, children, elderly and disabled) during and in the aftermath of crises. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

End philosophical vaccine exemption

Allowing parents to exempt their children from lifesaving vaccines for philosophical reasons puts others in danger and must end.

Washington is one of just 18 states that lets parents opt out of vaccines because of personal, moral or other beliefs, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. A measles epidemic centered in Clark County clearly illustrates why this law must be changed.

Of 65 confirmed cases of measles in Clark County since the beginning of the year, 57 of those infected were not immunized against the highly contagious disease and six others have unverified immunization status, according to the county health department. Only about three out of four Clark County school students received all their required vaccinations last year, according to school district data.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises anyone with a weakened immune system due to cancer treatment or HIV/AIDS not to receive the MMR vaccine that protects from mumps, measles and rubella. The CDC lists a few other health reasons for avoiding or postponing vaccines.

But a child with fragile health, whose doctor advises to delay vaccines for health reasons, could be in extreme danger in Washington state because so many parents use philosophical exemptions. Vulnerable children are much more likely to be exposed to measles than they should be because Washington allows parents to skip required immunizations based solely on their personal beliefs.

Two Clark County lawmakers are working to change that for the health of all Washington children with compromised immune systems.

The Health Care and Wellness Committee passed House Bill 1638, which is awaiting action on the House floor. Republican Rep. Paul Harris and his Democratic seat mate, Rep. Monica Stonier, are confident their bill will pass.

Nationwide, the nonmedical vaccine exemption rate for kindergarten students in the 2017-18 school year was about 2 percent, according to the CDC. Washington had an exemption rate for philosophical, personal or religious reasons of 4 percent. And Clark County had a 6.7 percent exemption rate, according to state data.

Harris' bill would not apply to other required immunizations, including ones designed to prevent the spread of pertussis, meningitis and hepatitis B. But it is a good start, especially in light of the recent measles epidemic, which illustrated how fast this disease can spread.

The Legislature should work toward eliminating the personal vaccine exemption more broadly, to protect the health of medically vulnerable children. But first, lawmakers should pass House Bill 1638.

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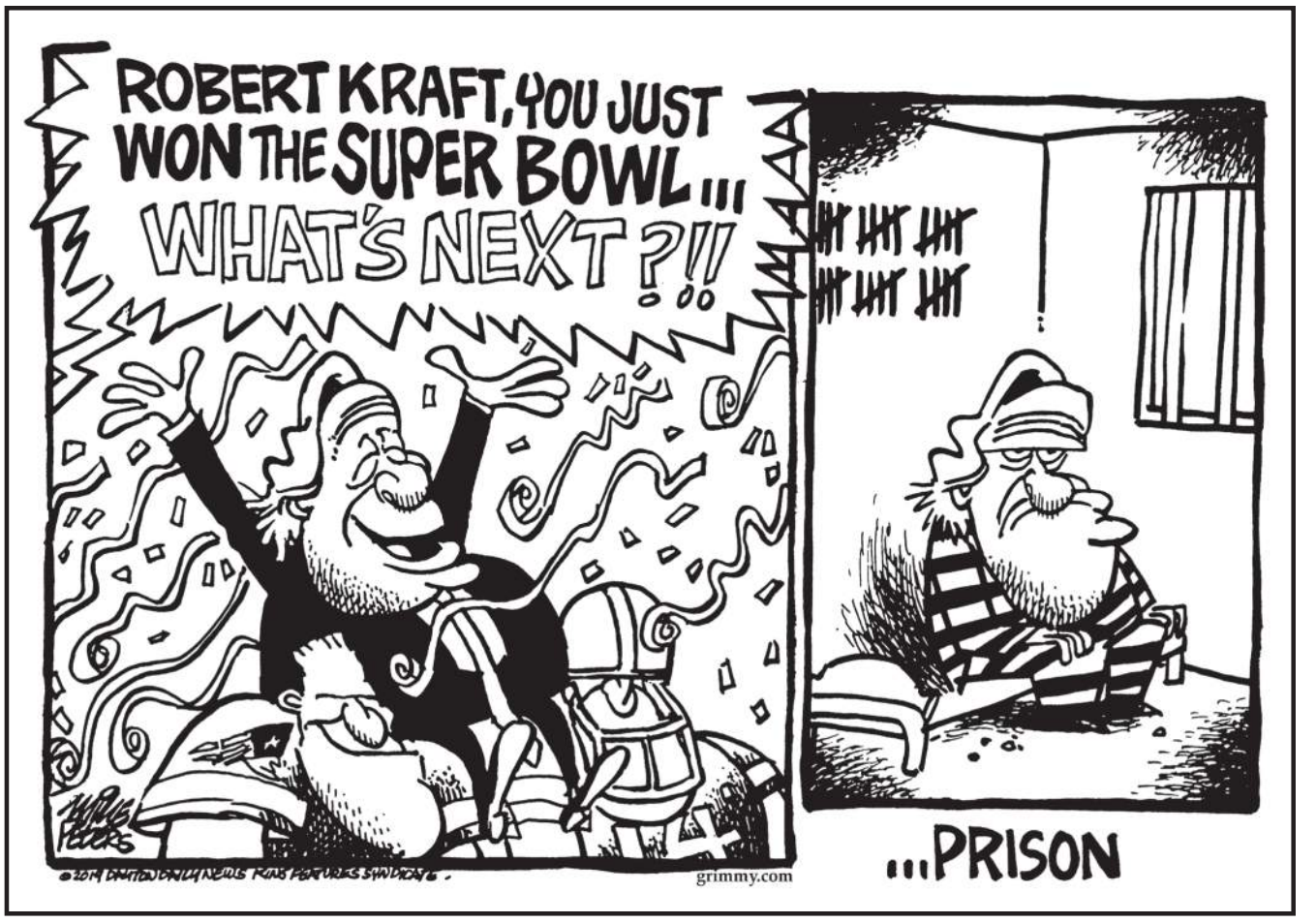


Three things Trump can do to keep the economy humming

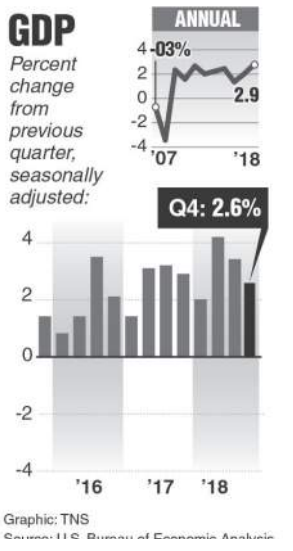
By KARL W. SMITH
Bloomberg News

Karl W. Smith is a former assistant professor of economics at the University of North Carolina's school of government and founder of the blog Modeled Behavior.

President Donald Trump promised to hit 3 percent growth in 2017—and the economy just barely made it, according to figures released last week. To keep it going, the administration is going to have to change its approach on the three main issues that will drive future growth: trade, taxes and immigration.

The biggest drag on growth came from changes in international trade, which subtracted $55 billion from GDP last year. Trump's aggressive trade policy is intended in part to improve economic growth. Despite what you might read on Twitter, however, trade wars are difficult to win.

Some trade actions were matched by counteractions. China's tariffs on U.S. agricultural products, for example, have had a devastating impact on farmers. Higher tariffs on imports have also hurt some U.S. manufacturers. When Trump first announced his tariff on imported appliances, for example, Whirlpool cheered. Then the president raised tariffs on imported steel, and Whirlpool's costs went up so much that it wiped out the advantage of the previous tariffs.



But there are two even more powerful negative side effects of the trade war. First, it seems to be exacerbating economic turbulence in China and Europe, where the continent's third-largest economy is already in a recession. As more European nations face a recession and the Chinese economy slows down, consumers on two continents will cut back on purchases of all kinds—including American goods.

A global recession also makes investors more reluctant to start new projects. That compounds the second side effect from the trade war: uncertainty. It's impossible to know how long the trade war will last or which products will be targeted next. In that environment, it makes sense for potential investors to take a wait-and-see approach.

The combination of these two side effects kept investment muted throughout 2018. This is tragic, because the primary goal of the tax reform law of 2017 was to spur business investment. And while it has been quite strong in intangibles such as intellectual property, investment in large physical projects slowed remarkably near the end of the year.

Ideally, a boost to investment will come with a swift end to the trade war. But if that's not in the cards, the administration might consider revisiting that 2017 tax reform.

That law allowed the cost of certain investments to be deducted immediately, which not only encouraged such investment but also reduced business taxes. But the change was temporary and limited—crucially, it doesn't apply to actual physical structures, some of the longest-lived and most important investments in the economy. Democrats and Republicans should work together to make the change broader and permanent. With this single act, Congress could help raise the productivity of the U.S. worker.

Even as Congress works to make Americans more productive, it should also acknowledge that the U.S. is in desperate need for skilled immigrants—especially in technology and health. The relative short supply and resulting high wages for skilled employees is a major contributing factor in the high cost of health care.

That cost is a drag on the rest of the economy, too, making care more expensive for employers and taxpayers. At the same time, it represents an underlying demand that could be a source of growth. The U.S. is also a leader in medical technology, and if the sector had more skilled workers, prices would fall and innovation would rise.

Would the president support such a change in immigration policy? That remains to be seen. But remember that he proposed increasing legal immigration just last month in his State of the Union speech. Democrats should enthusiastically accept his offer.

Admittedly, this blueprint for future growth—end the trade war, extend tax reform and expand legal immigration—may seem unlikely for this administration. Yet most economists would have said the same thing about its goal of achieving 3 percent growth in an economy with already low unemployment. Repeating that performance will be difficult, requiring the administration to stand up to the anti-growth forces within its ranks. But the potential rewards, both political and economic, are worth the effort.

Baratun Suetdu!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

I baratun suetdu i primera iniguñg familia guine. Komprendiyun. Makat na sapet pot disposision nesessidat `nai ti suffisiente fondu gi monedan familia. Sinparat na sapet para megai na familia, diariamente.

I asuntu pot kualidat linala` tautau-ta ni mau`udai gi monedan familia. Dimas, ha nesessita mas ke $650 miyon para umana` fan satisfechu i 15-mit tantus na empleau. Kumeke ilegña debi kada unu umasuetdu $43-mit gi sakan.

Makat na kontrariu pot dañkulu na fondu ha nesessita. Lau planta fan planun miyu haf` taimanu `nai siña in hatsa suetdun popble hulu` gi disiente na eskalera.

Satbasion: Unu ha` propiu na ineppi guaha `an para ta adelanta suetdun tautau-ta: homlu` na ekonomian tanu`! Solu chalaña este na diniseha. Lau haf` ya maletke ni manma-elihe deste 40 añus tatte?

`Nai homlu` i ekonomia siempre tali`e magof na fasu gi tautauta siha taimanu `an humalum sagun atulai entalu` Oleai yan Garapan. Tat ti chumachaleg `an ha chule` haf` ha-abona para kelaguen, pagsiu `sino inaflitu. Appenas na tiempu sagun atulai!

Gi mismu tiempu debi lokue` i manma-elihe de u guaha planun niha taimanu este na asuntu machoneg pot adelantun monedan familia.

Dudayu` kau homlu` ekonomiata na tiempu. Debi mohon u bula cho`chu` yan appottunidat empleau umadelanta pagamientun niha. Taigue este na appottunidat pa`gu!

Mauleg ta rikonose manu `nai man-malefa hit ni paketi-ta. Kau gaige gi kantun unai pat oriyan i sadog iya Susupe. Sopbla esta setmun. Oran aksion pa`gu! Haf` fitme planun miyu gi este na nesessidat empleau?

Lache: I democrats gi US Senate ma-apprueba priniponen lai ni sumede mapunu` neni minutus antes de umafañagu yan dispues de humuyuñg ginen tiyan nanaña. I mismu ginagau matai i ma-intended na ayudu para neni ni la`la` dispues de mapoka`.

Komprendiyun asuntu mediku gi nana `nai guaha piniligru. Lau `nai esta kabales tautau ya mafañagu haye gai atoridat mamunu` nu ennau na patgon?

Ti hu komprende haf` na i nana yan mediku siña madesidi este na asuntu dispues de mafañagu i patgon. Esta tautau ya para `in pinu`? Ya i direchoña i inosiente na neni? Dididi` kulan tagfena pot konbiniente.

Linau: Malagnus na oga`an gasetan Japon pot prinidiktan man-dañkulu na linau gi tasin niha gi halum 30 añus na tiempu. Siña kase ti u affekta hit lau mauleg u guaha dididi` preparasion para `an ha danche hit linau ni metgut.

I pagyu siña man-atug hit. I linau todu i gaige gi hilo`mu siempre un` hinegse. Manadan guma padet siempre u fan dinestrosia `an dañkulu na linau mattu guine. Piligrosu na ira!

Bisnis: I adelantu gi ha`anita mau`udai gi kinalamten praibet siha na bisnis guine. Estague` na patte gi ekonomian i tanu` prumebeniniye aduana (fondu) para nesessidat setbisiun publiku. Setbisiu ha inklusu sisteman hinemlu` yan edukasion yan otru siha assistimientu.

Debi i man-ma`gas guine de uma-akanteha este na patte gi kinalamtenta para uma-asegura na homlu` hinanau ekonomian i tanu`. Gigon matompu` este seriosamiente kase man-abendi hit mahlug lapes, punta pot punta. I inakonsutta debi u sattun gi entalu` manma-elihe.

Chaleg: Hu bisita un` chelu `nai matai i kandet. Hu abisa na taya` kandet. Ilegña, "Hagas mantai kandet mame sa` ma-utut deste ma`pus na sakan". A`Saina, taftaf-yu` kumuentus!

■■■

I Chamoru ha matompu` gi finu` Eñglis `nai sumaunau i TH tat kumu father, mother, brother…Mana` tinahgue ni "D". Humuyuñg fodder, modder, brodder yan otru siha `nai humalum si Mr. D. I bihan mame ilegña, "fadet". De dios!

■■■

Mauleg na hanum grifu `in gimen antes de bai`n fan hanau para i eskuela gi sisienta siha na sakan. Gai baitamin "Clorox" ni muna gagasgas tilipas mame ginen familian kunanaf. Ai diberas na amotsan oga`an. Kada tumugap-yu` pau Clorox. De dios!

■■■

Antes metgut fuetsan siñku sientimus. `An guaha dies sientimus pues mamahan hau ice cup yan un` donuts. Esta siña un` fatta na guaha hau. Haf` na guaha! Gi biradan eskuela sige hu ayeg gi troñku lemai manu para bai tife` para senan mame. Dios mihu!

■■■

Guaha `nai hufaisen maisayu` haf` pinadesen tufai. Ilegña i asaguahu: "`Nai un` lasas i aga` ya un` yute sanhalum pot para un` kanu` i lasas". A` Saina!

■■■

Yangin guaha siha pinadesisi-mu tat kumu putin pogpug koyentura kanu` i saibog choda sa` maguñg. Ti hoñgiyun lau ennau na estudiu hu taitai guine na semana. Mauleg lokue` i didog na kulot betdi na cha para fagas sanhalom-ta.

■■■

Konbetsasion entalu` famaguon-ta, biha yan bihun niha, mameskla gi hu fanana`an Chamoru-Eñglis. Ti komprendiyun lau namatman na sige mañaleg mientras duru man-abati liñguahe. Dios mihu!

If companies won't raise pay, Congress will try to do it for them

By NIR KAISSAR
Bloomberg Opinion

Nir Kaissar is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering the markets. He is the founder of Unison Advisors, an asset management firm. He has worked as a lawyer at Sullivan & Cromwell and a consultant at Ernst & Young.

If U.S. companies needed more evidence that scrutiny of wages is intensifying, they heard it last week in Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's testimony to Congress.

The subject came up several times. One memorable exchange was with Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio. He asked Powell whether the "Fed's employment mandate is just to ensure that people are employed" or whether full employment implies something more, that "workers earn a salary and benefits that let them fully participate in the 2019 economy and our country."

Powell dodged the question, instead reminding Brown that U.S. unemployment is at a 50-year low and that the Fed lacks the tools to "affect every social problem." It's true that the Fed's mandate is to maximize employment, not wages, and that the Fed probably can't raise wages, even if it wanted to.

But as long as workers continue to receive less than a living wage, no one should be surprised that concerned lawmakers are looking for every opportunity to intervene, however implausible or ill-advised. If companies won't raise their employees' pay, the government will try to do it for them.

The Fed's mandate of maximum employment makes it a tempting target. After all, the point of employment is to make a living, so it's natural to ask how well the Fed is achieving its mandate when millions of workers earn less than a living wage.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median annual family income in the U.S. was $75,938 in 2017. But remember that half of U.S. families earn less than the median income, which means that millions of Americans are struggling to afford the basics. That leaves no room for savings, so half of families can't save for retirement or unforeseen expenses.

The numbers for individuals are no better. Median annual personal income was $31,099 in 2016. The Economic Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank, estimates that one adult with no dependents would need $33,530 to cover necessities.

There are other reasons to wonder whether headline unemployment tells the whole story. In theory, employment and inflation should be opposing forces. Low unemployment implies that workers, in aggregate, have more money to spend, which should push up prices. But if low wages are keeping a lid on spending, that might explain why inflation has been muted even as the U.S. enjoys historically low unemployment.

Also, prime-age workers are dropping out of the labor force. No one knows exactly why, but it's worth considering whether low wages are discouraging them. I recently showed that the median employee compensation for 10 percent of the roughly 1,000 largest U.S. companies by market value is below the federal poverty level for a family of four. Workers at those companies may conclude that they're better off relying on government assistance, or at least no worse off.

Brown intends to press the Fed, telling Powell: "I believe the Fed has the authority and the duty to be creative to help workers share in the prosperity they create. My staff will follow up with your staff on ways of doing that." I'm skeptical that the Fed can offer any help, but I'm confident that Brown and other lawmakers won't stop there.

Companies can address the problem by simply paying workers more reasonable wages. Fortunately, big U.S. companies are enjoying record profits, so it wouldn't be a stretch. It's also in companies' long-term interest to do so because it would preempt what is likely to be a more intrusive and less effective intervention by lawmakers.

The Sky Above, The Mud Below

Galactic Operas by the Billions and Billions Big Bang Boosters and Cosmological Roosters

Inspired by the evening skies of Tinian, and Anne Lynch Botta (1815 -1891) and her humorous poem "To An Astronomer."

On 21st century cosmologists
and their many predecessors
we should concentrate
even though their equations are
for the most part incomprehensible
and difficult for us terrestrials
for more LHC discoveries we must wait
for them to find more Higgs bosons
among subatomic celestials
they don't even need to see any skies
polluted, convoluted, black, or blue
or any old or new comets
or supernovas and nebulae
that come between us
when with satellite data
they can sit the night through
and gaze at billions
and billions of galaxies
billions of miles past Venus.
Thank you scientists, physicists:
Greene, Carrol, Burnell, Linde,
Feynman, Fang, Higgs, Hawking,
Einstein, Copernicus, Galileo,
Kepler, Brahe, Guth, Krauss,
Abe, Mori, Suzuki, Chandrasekhar,
and of course Sir Isaac Newton,
and thousands of others …
who have been stalking those
moments before, during, and after
the BIG BANG and beyond …
on which our origins and future
hang, and before we pass through
heaven's gates or evolve into
compost and food for worms
look up the universe awaits
and as our world turns enjoy
the dance in the darkness
listen to the galactic operas.

Mud, a Minor Metamorphosis

Inspired by Amy Steiger's poem, "I love mud," posted on Feb. 28, 2019 on Facebook. Amy Steiger, thanks for the inspirations on some muddy situations.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

I dig dirt, not so much dust, just plain dirt gets my trust
it doesn't bother me when I get some good clean dirt
clinging to my work pants, shirt, or hands doing work
I dug dirt planting trees in fire burns in Oregon and B.C.
someone else will have to dig it when they bury me
dug vegetable gardens in our western hillside backyard
through frozen muddy wet clay that even thawed was hard

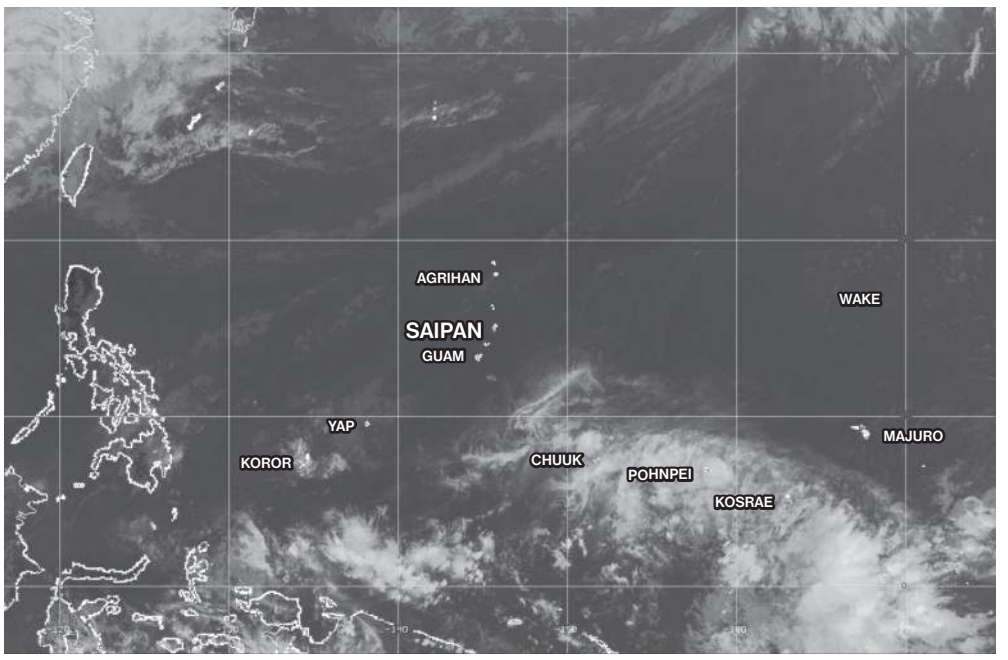
I don't mind mud, as a kid I made many designer mud pies
of random shapes and sizes, and never kept one of them hid
even mud on the floor in the kitchen or on my shoes and boots
muddy tracks to and from the door, rain and dirt in cahoots
messy mucky mud gets caked on and all over the place
drying in the sun gets well baked on some kids burned face
from the stars and skies above to the earth's mud below
our universe, our world , and all of us continue to grow.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
87° 76°	87° 76°	88° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:23 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters, mainly south of Guam. The VAD wind profile indicates east-northeast winds of 14 to 19 knots through the lowest 6 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal 4 to 6 foot combined seas, composed mainly of trade-wind swell from the east and a bit of swell from the southeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°
Yap	Showers	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Cloudy	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 79°
Majuro	Showers	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	73° / 66°
Beijing	Sunny	57° / 28°
Hong Kong	Showers	68° / 63°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	76° / 66°
London	Showers	59° / 45°
Los Angeles	Rain	61° / 56°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	93° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	73° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	72° / 62°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	27° / 14°
Osaka	Showers	54° / 41°
Paris	Showers	57° / 48°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	64° / 54°
Salem	Cloudy	56° / 34°
San Francisco	Thunderstorms	56° / 47°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	54° / 27°
Tokyo	Rain	54° / 39°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	32° / 22°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:52 AM	HIGH TIDE	-0.02
8:22 AM	LOW TIDE	1.83
2:15 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.84
7:30 PM	LOW TIDE	1.84

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:31 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:33 AM	5:20 PM	-
Thursday	6:13 AM	6:08 PM	-
Friday	6:52 AM	6:56 PM	-
Saturday	7:29 AM	7:43 PM	-
Sunday	8:45 AM	9:20 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/1936:25pm		11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	6:25pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

China sets robust growth target to shore up cooling economy

BEIJING (AP)—China's top economic official announced a robust annual growth target and a 7.5 percent rise in military spending on Tuesday as its ceremonial legislature opened a session overshadowed by a tariff war with Washington.

In a bid to defuse U.S. and European trade complaints, Premier Li Keqiang promised in a speech to the National People's Congress that foreign companies would be "treated as equals" with Chinese enterprises.

Li set this year's growth target at 6 to 6.5 percent, reflecting official determination to shore up a cooling economy and prevent politically dangerous job losses in the face of U.S. tariff hikes and weaker global demand. It is off slightly from last year's 6.6 percent growth, a three-decade low, but would be among the world's strongest if achieved.

President Xi Jinping's government is expected to use the congress to announce measures to support economic growth including a possible tax cut and more support for entrepreneurs.

Legislators also are due to endorse a law that aims to ease tensions with Washington and Europe by discouraging officials from pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology. The battle with Washington was sparked by complaints Beijing violates its free-trade obligations by stealing or requiring companies to give up technology as the price of market access.

The two-week gathering of the congress's 3,000-plus delegates in the cavernous Great Hall of the People is China's highest-profile event of the year but does little lawmaking work. Instead, it serves as a platform to highlight plans for the year and set the tone for government work.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

FDA chief calls out Walgreens over tobacco sales to minors

A top U.S. regulator wants to meet with Walgreens leaders to discuss whether the drugstore chain has a problem with illegal tobacco sales to minors. Scott Gottlieb of the Food and Drug Administration said Monday Walgreens is a top violator among drugstores that sell tobacco products including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes. He says inspectors have found nearly 1,800 instances since 2010 in which one of the company's stores violated the law. Deerfield, Illinois-based Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. runs more than 9,500 U.S. drugstores. Spokesman Jim Cohn says the company welcomes a meeting with the FDA. He says Walgreens prohibits tobacco sales to minors, and employees who violate that policy can be fired immediately. Walgreens rival CVS Health Corp. quit selling tobacco in its stores several years ago. ***(AP)***

US to publish its own economic data on Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—The U.S. government announced Monday that it will begin to publish economic data on Puerto Rico amid concerns that statistics released by the U.S. territory itself are flawed. The Bureau of Economic Analysis said it will analyze consumer spending, business investment and trade in goods from 2012 through 2017, as well as in the future. The agency said that the data will be published later this year and that its work could eventually lead to an estimate of Puerto Rico's gross domestic product. "For years, Puerto Rico has produced its own estimate of economic activity," the agency said. "The island, however, suffered devastating damage in 2017 from Hurricane Maria, exacerbating its financial troubles." The bureau said Puerto Rico needs a more modern set of statistics that adhere to international economic accounting standards and that could be used to better inform hurricane recovery efforts. The U.S. government has pledged billions of dollars for such efforts, including $8.2 billion from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which said last week that it will impose strict conditions and financial controls given Puerto Rico's past fiscal irregularities.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- The Estate of JOAQUINA NEKAIFES KANIKI, Deceased, Defendant.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0225

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 7, 2019, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot no. 015 D 54, situated in Sugar King Estates, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 982 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no.015 D 00, the original of which was registered on September 11, 1975, as Documented no. 4841, at the Land Registry, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2019., at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Condition of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 11th day of February, 2019
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE., Auctioneer

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone.: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Bank of Guam, Plaintiff, vs. Ephrem S. Taimanao and Lucia M. Taimanao, dba Joe and Sons Enterprises, Defendants.) CIVIL ACTION NO.: 18-0018) NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF AUCTION AND JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Auction and Judicial Sale for the following real property described below is hereby **CANCELLED**. The auction scheduled for **April 5, 2019** at **10:30 a.m.** at the Rota Courthouse, Rota, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands will not go forward. No bids will be accepted nor considered.

The Auction and Judicial Sale of the following real property has been cancelled:

Lot 345 R 200, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 05, the original of which was recorded 10 May 1984 as Document No. 84-751 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

SO NOTICED this 1st day of March, 2019.

/s/ Robert T. Torres,
Auctioneer

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone.: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Bank of Guam, Plaintiff, vs. Ephrem S. Taimanao and Lucia M. Taimanao, dba Joe and Sons Enterprises, Defendants.) CIVIL ACTION NO.: 18-0019) NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF AUCTION AND JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Auction and Judicial Sale for the following real property described below is hereby **CANCELLED**. The auction scheduled for **April 5, 2019** at **10:30 a.m.** at the Rota Courthouse, Rota, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands will not go forward. No bids will be accepted nor considered.

The Auction and Judicial Sale of the following real property has been cancelled:

Lot No. 010 R 20, containing an of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 010 R 00 dated March 06, 1974 as Document No. 3438 at Land Registry, Saipan which was recorded on June 17, 1997 as Document No. 97-1467 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

SO NOTICED this 1st day of March, 2019.

/s/ Robert T. Torres,
Auctioneer

Lelina Tiamzon Torres
P.O. Box 501231 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: 670-788-1953

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter Of The Adoption Of: NBTL 02-07-2014 Minor Child By: Lelina Tiamzon Torres Petitioner) FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0106) NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing May 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Courttoom MBP, before the Honorable Judge Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 28th day of February, 2019.

/s/ Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

RALPH DLG TORRES, Governor — ARNOLD I. PALACIOS, Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CNMI Office of Planning & Development (OPD)

The CNMI Office of Planning & Development is seeking **YOUR INPUT** on the CNMI's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (or CEDS), which is the CNMI's 5-year economic development & resiliency-building plan.

OPD has received nearly 200 project proposals from both government and local non-government organizations for inclusion within the CEDS. Your input is needed to identify which of these projects are of particular significance to you. Please visit http://www.cnmi-ceds.com to view the project proposals received and to leave a comment on which projects you think will foster sustainable economic development in the CNMI. For questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at planning.opd@gmail.com or at (670) 488-1221.

OPD will also be conducting public outreach on Tinian and Rota on the following dates:

March 13, 2019: Tinian, San Jose Village, (location TBA), 9am - 4pm
March 14, 2019: Rota, Songsong Village, (location TBA),10am - 4pm
March 15, 2019: Rota, Sinapalo Village, (location TBA), 8am - 2pm

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP19-BECQ/DCRM-056

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 20, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"TALAKHAYA WATERSHED REVEGETATION PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL **TO MS. JANICE CASTRO** BY EMAIL AT jcastro@dcrm.gov.mp, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS MARCH 08, 2019**. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Governors of the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture, hereby give notice that a regular meeting of the Museum will be held on Friday, March 8, 2019 at 11:00am at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan, Saipan. All interested persons are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 664-2160 or send fax to 664-2170.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call/Ascertain Quorom
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Approval of Minutes
V. Reports
  A. Chairman's Report
  B. Executive Directors Report
VI. Old Business
VII. New Business
  A. Museum Land Assignment to MVA
  B. Professional Services
VIII. Miscellaneous Matters
IX. Announcements
X. Adjournment

Chris Concepcion
Chairman, Board of Governors

Nation

23 dead, dozens missing in tornado-blasted Alabama community

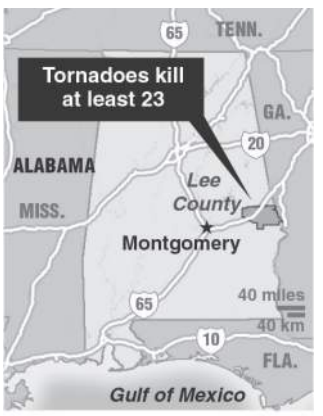
BEAUREGARD, Ala. (AP)—Rescue crews using dogs and drones searched for victims amid splintered lumber and twisted metal Monday after the deadliest U.S. tornado in nearly six years ripped through a rural Alabama community. At least 23 people were killed, some of them children.

Dozens were missing in Lee County nearly a day after the twister struck, according to the sheriff, who said that crews had combed the hardest-hit areas but that other places had yet to be searched.

The winds Sunday afternoon obliterated numerous homes, leaving huge, jumbled piles of wood and household belongings. Some homes were reduced to concrete slabs. Debris was scattered across the countryside, with shredded metal hanging from the pine trees.

"I'm not going to be surprised if we don't come up with some more deceased. Hopefully we won't," Coroner Bill Harris said. He said the dead included almost entire families and at least three children, ages 6, 9 and 10.

A post on the Lee-Scott Academy's Facebook page said



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

fourth-grader Taylor Thornton was among those killed.

On the day after the disaster, volunteers used chain saws to clear paths for emergency workers. Neighbors and friends helped one another find some of their belongings in the ruins.

Carol Dean found her wedding dress among the wreckage of her mobile home. But the storm took her 53-year-old husband. She said David Wayne Dean was at home Sunday afternoon and had texted a friend to beware when the tornado hit.

"He didn't make it out," she said.

Dean said she rushed home from her job at Walmart when she couldn't reach her husband on the phone. She pushed her way past sheriff's deputies who tried to keep her out of the damaged area. Her children had found David Dean's body in a neighbor's yard.

"They took me down to him," Dean said, "and I got to spend a little time with him before they took him away."

At the R&D Grocery, rattled residents asked one another if they were OK. And a big banner that read "#BEAUREGARDSTRONG" was hung on a fence at Beauregard High School.

The National Weather Service said one and possibly two tornadoes struck the area, with a powerful EF-4 twister with winds estimated at 170 mph (274 kph) blamed for most of the destruction. It carved a path nearly a mile (1.6 kilometers) wide and 24 miles (39 kilometers) long, said meteorologist Chris Darden.

Darden said the "monster tornado" was the deadliest twister to hit the U.S. since May 2013, when an EF-5 killed 24 people in Moore, Oklahoma.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hillary Clinton says she won't run for president in 2020

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hillary Clinton says she won't run for president in 2020, but vows she's "not going anywhere." The former secretary of state, senator and first lady ruled out another campaign during an interview posted Monday by New York TV station News12. Clinton, who lost the 2016 presidential election to Donald Trump, says, "I'm going to keep on working and speaking and standing up for what I believe." She says, "What's at stake in our country, the kind of things that are happening right now are deeply troubling to me." She says she has spoken with several of the candidates seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, and has told them, "Don't take anything for granted, even though we have a long list of real problems and broken promises" from the Trump administration.

Activists campaign for treaty to end violence against women

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Women's rights activists from 128 nations are launching a public campaign for an international treaty to end violence against women and girls, a global scourge estimated by the United Nations to affect 35 percent of females worldwide. The campaign led by the Seattle-based nonprofit organization Every Woman Treaty aims to have the U.N. World Health Organization adopt the treaty with the goal of getting all 193 U.N. member states to ratify it. Every Woman Treaty co-founder Lisa Shannon told The Associated Press in an interview ahead of Tuesday's official launch that "violence against women and girls is the most widespread human rights violation on Earth." She called it "a global pandemic" and said that "we cannot make progress as a species without addressing violence against women and girls."

Oakland teachers go back to class after strike over pay

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Thousands of Oakland teachers are back in their classrooms after union members voted to approve a contract agreement that provided pay raises. Oakland Education Association members approved the deal Sunday and went back to work Monday. The Oakland Unified School District ratified the agreement during a meeting Monday, giving educators 11 percent raises and a one-time bonus of 3 percent. The agreement was reached after 3,000 teachers went on strike Feb. 21. That prompted seven days of marathon negotiations over pay, smaller classes and more school resources. Oakland teachers were the latest educators in the U.S. to strike over pay and classroom conditions. The city's 86 schools remained open during the strike with administrators and substitutes. The union said last Friday that the teachers won their demands.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-021

Opening Date: Monday, March 4, 2019
Closing Date: Friday, March 15, 2019

Trades Technician: Mechanic
(Diesel Power Plant)

DUTIES: Under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Generation. Primary duties are as a TRADES TECHNICIAN MECHANIC: Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures; Provide assistance in monitoring and complying with regulatory compliance; operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility; Identifies issues and operational concerns; Performs analysis, maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs of 8 megawatt, 13 megawatt Mitsubishi-MAN diesel engines to include engine auxiliary equipment in the main Power Plant and provide the same services on the small Power Plant with 2.5 megawatt Electromotive Division (EMD) units. Ensures work is within Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM) engineering specifications and quality levels. Performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions; Receives trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas; Analyzes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders, data, and prepares reports; Perform reconditioning of used parts; Perform alignment of pumps and motors at auxiliary sites; Bending, cutting, grinding and fabricating various types of materials; Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation, SAIPAN**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $20,826.00 to $23,500.00 per annum, Non-exempt (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITIONS : Five (5)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Graduate from a Vocational/Technical Institution as a Mechanic or related field. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience performing mechanic duties on 1500 HP or larger diesel prime mover engines and associated auxiliary units. Experience on Mitsubishi MAN, EMD, Cummins and/or Nordberg diesel engines desired but not required. **Knowledge of:** Mechanical principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Mathematical concepts; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; **Skill in:** Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work of various plant systems; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining historical data; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Work primarily inside around machinery in operation; in varying degree of temperature in tight or cramped (confined) work spaces, at heights, on ladders or scaffolds, and on slippery or uneven walking surfaces in close proximity to high and low voltage circuits and dimbs stairs frequently. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work; exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities. Applicants may be tested and are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resources Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan.
Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office, or email: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-022

Opening Date: Monday, March 4, 2019
Closing Date: Friday, March 15, 2019

Trades Technician-Operator
(Diesel Power Plant)

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Generation. Responsible for the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks. Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities. Responsible for monitoring all Plant systems as assigned. Will act as the responsible person when working without supervision. Responsible for entire plant during operating periods. May direct and/or instruct all other personnel as required during all other periods. May be on call for emergency response. Primary duties are as a TRADES TECHNICIAN OPERATOR for a diesel engine power plant. Operates, controls, monitors and inspects generators, switchgears, motor controls, transformers, protection relays, circuit breakers, compressors, RO system and other associated equipment. Performs analysis, maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs of 8 megawatt, 13 megawatt Mitsubishi-MAN diesel engines to include engine auxiliary equipment in the main Power Plant and provide the same services on the small Power Plant with 2.5 megawatt Electromotive Division (EMD) units. Ensures work is within Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM) engineering specifications and quality levels. Takes readings from, meters, gauges and computers at established intervals, reads and interprets data to take corrective steps as necessary. Inspects records and log book entries, and communicates with other plant personnel in order to assess equipment-operating status. Performs systems operations to regulate and coordinate transmission load, frequencies and line voltages. Identifies potential issues and operational concerns; performs operational inspections and symptomatic maintenance; provides status reports; evaluates and implements solutions and corrective actions under emergency situations.

LOCATION : **Power Generation, SAIPAN**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $20,826.00 to $23,000.00 Per Annum, Non-Exempt (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITIONS : Five (5)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Considerable knowledge in operation, repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant operations and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing operator duties. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Mechanical and electrical principles, practices and operations of power plant equipment. Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. **Skill in:** Performing inspections and analyzing system and equipment data; Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standard operating procedures; Monitoring plant equipment and making adjustments; Identifying electrical and mechanical issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Initiating requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication an interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, dimb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work; exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities. Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends, holidays and on-call. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resources Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan.
Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office, or email: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Asia

Kim returns home after failed nuclear diplomacy with Trump

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un returned home on Tuesday after traveling two and a half days by train from Vietnam, where his high-stakes nuclear summit with President Donald Trump ended without any agreement.

The Kim-Trump summit broke down mainly because of disputes over the extent of sanctions relief the North could win in return for its nuclear disarmament steps. Both Washington and Pyongyang blame each other for the summit's breakdown, but neither side says they would pull out of diplomacy.

■■■

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has proposed semiofficial three-way talks with the United States and North Korea as it struggles to put nuclear diplomacy back on track after the collapse of a summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The proposal for the talks came during a National Security Council meeting on Monday led by South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who said it was Seoul's "outmost priority" to prevent nuclear negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea from derailing.

At the meeting in Seoul's presidential palace, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said the proposed talks, which could include civilian experts from the U.S. and South Korea, would help settle differences over how much sanctions relief Washington should provide North Korea in exchange for nuclear disarmament steps.

Last week's meeting between Trump and Kim in Vietnam broke down over what the Americans said were North Korea's excessive demands for sanctions relief in exchange for a limited offer to shut down its aging main nuclear complex in Yongbyon. North Korea reportedly has other sites producing weapons-grade uranium hidden around the country.

Kim

■■■

The crowd welcoming Kim at Pyongyang's railway station gave shouts of joy and loud hurrahs upon his return, the Korean Central News Agency reported.

Kim received a salute from the head of the army's honor guards and was presented with flowers from children. Senior officials also greeted Kim with "their ardent congratulations," KCNA reported.

The report briefly mentioned Kim's summit with Trump but didn't say the meeting failed to produce any agreement. The North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper previously reported that Kim and Trump had agreed to continue talks to resolve issues discussed in their Hanoi summit, but it also didn't mention the lack of agreement in the summit.

Some observers say the North's propaganda services won't report about the summit's collapse to prevent Kim from suffering any damage in his leadership at home. They say Kim is desperate to win sanctions relief to try to resolve his country's moribund economy and improve public livelihoods.

After his summit with Trump, Kim had a two-day official visit to Vietnam that included a meeting with Vietnamese Nguyen Phu Trong and paying his respects at the embalmed body of national hero Ho Chi Minh. It was the first Vietnam visit by a North Korean leader since his late grandfather and North Korea founder Kim Il Sung went in 1964. The KCNA dispatch Tuesday called Kim Jong Un's Vietnam visit "successful."

Trump claims Cohen hearing may have hurt North Korea summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is suggesting that a congressional hearing Democrats arranged with his former personal attorney may have contributed to his failure to reach a summit deal with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Trump left his summit in Vietnam with the North Korean leader last week without reaching an agreement after Trump said he wasn't willing to give in to Kim's demand to lift U.S. sanctions at this time. He lashed out at Democrats in a tweet on Sunday, criticizing their decision to hold the hearing featuring his former lawyer, Michael Cohen, while he was overseas.

"For the Democrats to interview in open hearings a convicted liar & fraudster, at the same time as the very important Nuclear Summit with North Korea, is perhaps a new low in American politics and may have contributed to the 'walk,'" Trump tweeted. "Never done when a president is overseas. Shame!"

While in Vietnam, Trump was unhappy that Democrats had scheduled the Cohen hearing to occur during the summit, believing it was an attempt to counter-program and distract, according to two Republicans close to the White House who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

But after returning to Washington, and seeing the largely negative media reaction to the summit, including about his answer about the death of college student Otto Warmbier, Trump went a step further. He seized upon an idea being floated on the right, including by his eldest son Don Jr. on social media, that the Democrats' hearing was not just a distraction, but a deliberate attempt to undermine the negotiations in Hanoi, according to the Republicans.

The president complained to one confidant that the hearing made him "look weak" to Kim Jong Un, as did a reporter's shouted question about the Cohen matter in front of the North Korean leader.

Trump has said he ended the negotiations because Kim was demanding that all sanctions would be lifted, but observers note that the president has long been eager to find a scapegoat to blame for a perceived failure and has not been shy to question the patriotism of his political opponents.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-023

Opening Date: Monday, March 4, 2019
Closing Date: Friday, March 15, 2019

Trades Technician Senior, Mechanic
(Diesel Power Plant)

Duties: Under the direct supervision of Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. Performs skilled journey level maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides advanced technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and monitors regulatory compliance. May serve as a lead worker by overseeing, assigning and monitoring the completion of work by others. Inspects, operates and maintains heavy equipment and complex instrumentation; prepares materials and equipment for projects and operations; performs technical maintenance activities and journey level repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Performs inspections and/or survey work; identifies complex maintenance and operational issues; troubleshoots complex issues; researches and evaluates methods for resolution; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to technical requests and service calls; provides information and status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Compiles data and records; monitors and records equipment readings; conducts investigations; prepares regulatory reports, plans and job orders; and/or organizes and maintains information. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation, SAIPAN**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $24,096.00 to $25,400.00.00 Per Annum, Non-Exempt (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITIONS : One (1)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program Adult School Diploma (AS) and 3 years' of Journey experience related to area of assignment. **Knowledge of:** Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. **Skills in:** interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Licensing/Certification: Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class; Trades Licenses and/or Certifications, based on assignment. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

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Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI's DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: March 6, 2019

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the proposed modification to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) 2017 Construction General Permit (GCP). This activity covers stormwater discharges from construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land, or less than one acre and are a part of a common plan of development or sale that will ultimately disturb one or more acres of land, in areas where the EPA is the NPDES authority. More information about the activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at

https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/EPA_Construction-General-Permit-NPDES-proposed-modifications_8JAN2019.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fourteen (14) days, starting on March 6, 2019 and ending on March 20, 2019, in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

World

Guaido returns to Venezuela, calls for more street protests

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A defiant Juan Guaido returned home to Venezuela on Monday despite concerns the opposition leader might be detained and urged supporters at a rally to intensify their campaign to topple the government of President Nicolas Maduro.

The 35-year-old leader of Venezuela's National Assembly showed off his passport before climbing onto scaffolding and pumping his fist during the demonstration in Caracas, delighting euphoric followers whose efforts to oust Maduro have fallen short in a nation gripped by a humanitarian crisis.

There were few security forces nearby and no immediate comment from Maduro's government, which has tried to divert the public's attention to carnival festivities Monday and Tuesday. While thousands of Venezuelans heeded Guaido's call for protests coinciding with his return, many wonder whether he can maintain momentum against a government that, while under extreme pressure itself, has relentlessly cracked down on opponents in the past, jailing or driving into exile top opposition leaders.

"We know the risks that we face. That's never stopped us," Guaido said after arriving at Venezuela's main airport and going through immigration checks. He was greeted by top diplomats from the United States, Germany, Spain and other countries who possibly hoped to head off any move to detain Guaido by bearing witness to his return.

"We hope there won't be any escalation and that parliamentary immunity is respected," said Spanish Ambassador Jesus Silva Fernandez.

AP

Venezuelan Congress President Juan Guaido, an opposition leader who declared himself interim president, waves to supporters from the stage's scaffolding after speaking to supporters during a rally demanding the resignation of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, March 4, 2019.

The United States and some 50 other countries have recognized Guaido as the legitimate leader of Venezuela, arguing that Maduro's re-election last year was invalid because popular opposition candidates were barred from running.

At the rally, Guaido called for massive protests on Saturday and said he would meet Tuesday with public employee unions controlled by the government of Maduro, who retains the support of military generals despite the desertion of hundreds of lower-ranking military personnel.

"The regime must understand, the dictatorship must understand... that we're stronger than ever. We'll continue protesting, we'll continue mobilizing," said Guaido, who had ignored an official ban on foreign travel to leave Venezuela last month.

Guaido visited Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Ecuador over the past week—all countries that support his claim to be Venezuela's interim president and call on Maduro to resign so that the country can prepare for free and fair elections.

The United States, which has warned Maduro not to act against Guaido, congratulated the opposition leader on his return to Venezuela.

Hundreds leave IS-held area in Syria as fighting slows down

BAGHOUZ, Syria (AP)—Hundreds of people, including Islamic State fighters, evacuated the extremist group's last foothold in eastern Syria on Monday, after U.S.-backed Syrian fighters again slowed their offensive to allow a way out of the tiny enclave.

The new exodus came only three days after the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces resumed military operations against the militants holed up in Baghouz, a village on the banks of the Euphrates River close to the Iraqi border.

In past weeks, thousands of civilians left the speck of territory in organized evacuations following an earlier halt in fighting. The SDF said its fighters were surprised by the number of civilians, who include IS family members, cooped up in the small area that has been squeezed smaller and smaller by intermittent military offensives.

The militants and their families and other civilians are believed to have used tunnels, caves and holes to hide from airstrikes and missiles by the U.S.-led coalition and the SDF. The SDF said the militants are using civilians as human shields

An SDF media official who goes by his nom de guerre Ciyager said over 1,000 people, including a number of fighters, evacuated the area controlled by IS on Monday through a safe passage that has allowed those wishing to exit a way out. Dozens of men, women and children climbed hills on foot and were later seen getting into small trucks after they were searched by SDF fighters manning the evacuation corridor.

Shortly before sunset, more than 20 trucks, usually used to transport animals, emerged from the IS-held area, carrying men, women and children. One woman covered in black flashed a victory sign as she left.

The evacuees included a man who said he was French, men and women from Indonesia, Turkey, Turkistan and Bosnia and many Syrians and Iraqis.

Some of the men were of fighting age and appeared healthy while others were wounded. Some carried crutches, and a man with face burns and a broken leg was carried off the truck on a mattress, intravenous needles visible in his arm and hand. A skinny man, with short dreadlocks, stepped off the truck in a daze.

Since Feb. 20, more than 10,000 people have left the IS-held pocket, producing dramatic scenes of women shrouded in black and many children climbing off trucks into a desert area to be screened and searched. They were then whisked to a camp for displaced people to the north, while suspected fighters were moved to detention facilities.

Military operations restarted Friday, with a ground advance a day later that followed a spectacular air assault that lit the skies of the tiny village. IS militants desperately fought back with snipers, car bombs and other weapons trying to slow the SDF advance.

Lewla Abdullah, an SDF official, said at least three car bombs had been deployed in the campaign, and at least four SDF fighters and more than 100 IS fighters were killed since Friday. She said IS was holding civilians and others hostage.

Putin suspends Russia's obligations under the 1987 nuclear agreement

MOSCOW (AP)—President Vladimir Putin suspended Russia's participation in a nuclear arms treaty the Trump administration already decided to leave, alleging Monday that Washington and not Moscow was in violation of the 1987 pact.

In a decree, Putin suspended Russia's obligations under the terms of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty and said hold would remain in place "until the U.S. ends its violations of the treaty or until it terminates."

Putin's order came as Gen. Valery Gerasimov, the head of the Russian military's General Staff, was in Vienna for talks on strategic stability with U.S. Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The INF treaty was one of the issues discussed in what the Russia's Defense Ministry described as "constructive" talks.

The U.S. gave notice of its intention to withdraw from the INF a month ago, setting the stage for it to terminate in six months unless Moscow returns to compliance. Russia has denied any breaches, and accused the U.S. of violating the pact.

The U.S. has accused Russia of developing and deploying a cruise missile that violates provisions of the pact that ban production, testing and deployment of land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers (310 to 3,410 miles).

The move also reflected President Donald Trump's administration's view that the treaty was an obstacle to efforts needed to counter intermediate-range missiles deployed by China, which isn't part of the treaty.

Russia has charged that the U.S. has breached the pact by deploying missile defense facilities in eastern Europe that could fire cruise missiles instead of interceptors—a claim rejected by the U.S.

The collapse of the INF Treaty has stoked fears of a replay of a Cold War-era Europe missile crisis, when the U.S. and the Soviet Union both deployed intermediate-range missiles on the continent during the 1980s.

Such weapons take less time to reach their targets compared to intercontinental ballistic missiles. Their deployment was seen as particularly destabilizing, leaving no time for decision-makers and raising the likelihood of a global nuclear conflict over a false launch warning.

Last month, Putin ordered the development of new land-based intermediate-range weapons, but emphasized that Russia would not deploy them in the European part of the country unless it was in response to the U.S. taking the action against Russia.

The Russian leader has warned Washington against placing new missiles in Europe, promising that Moscow would retaliate by fielding new weapons that can reach targets more quickly.

The treaty's demise "could actually trigger a possible missile crisis in Europe as it did in the 1980s," Moscow-based military expert Pavel Felgenhauer said. "The tensions between East and West are growing, and that means there is a possibility of a war. It's not imminent, but the possibility is there."

Focus

AP

President Donald Trump hugs the American flag as he arrives to speak at Conservative Political Action Conference, CPAC 2019, in Oxon Hill, Md., Saturday, March 2, 2019.

House Democrats launch aggressive new

TRUMP PROBE

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats launched a sweeping new probe of President Donald Trump on Monday, an aggressive investigation that threatens to shadow the president through the 2020 election season with potentially damaging inquiries into his White House, campaign and family businesses.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said his panel was beginning the probe into possible obstruction of justice, corruption and abuse of power and is sending document requests to 81 people linked to the president and his associates.

The broad investigation could be setting the stage for an impeachment effort, although Democratic leaders have pledged to investigate all avenues and review special counsel Robert Mueller's upcoming report before trying any drastic action. Nadler said the document requests, with responses to most due by March 18, are a way to "begin building the public record."

"Over the last several years, President Trump has evaded accountability for his near-daily attacks on our basic legal, ethical, and constitutional rules and norms," said Nadler, D-N.Y. "Investigating these threats to the rule of law is an obligation of Congress and a core function of the House Judiciary Committee."

Trump dismissed the Nadler probe and others as futile efforts "in search of a crime."

"Ridiculous!" he exclaimed on Twitter.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders called the House probe "a disgraceful and abusive investigation into tired, false allegations."

In a statement Monday night, Sanders said: "Chairman Nadler and his fellow Democrats have embarked on this fishing expedition because they are terrified that their two-year false narrative of 'Russia collusion' is crumbling. Their intimidation and abuse of American citizens is shameful."

Separate congressional probes are already swirling around the president, including an effort announced Monday by three other House Democratic chairmen to obtain information about private conversations between him and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In a letter to the White House and State Department, the House intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Oversight and Reform panels sent broad requests for details about Trump and Putin's private meetings by phone and in person. In addition to document requests, the committees are asking to interview interpreters who sat in on meetings, including a one-on-one session in Helsinki last summer.

The State Department pledged to "work cooperatively with the committees."

The new probes signal that now that Democrats hold a majority in the House, Trump's legal and political peril is nowhere near over, even as the special counsel's Russia investigation winds down.

They are also an indication of the Democrats' current strategy—to flood the administration with oversight requests, keeping Trump and his associates on trial publicly while also playing a long game when it comes to possible impeachment. While some more liberal members of the Democratic caucus would like to see Trump impeached now, Democratic leaders have been more cautious.

Trump told reporters after Nadler's probe was announced that "I cooperate all the time with everybody."

He added: "You know, the beautiful thing? No collusion. It's all a hoax."

Trump's 2020 re-election campaign released a statement Monday night saying, "These desperate Democrats know they cannot beat President Trump in 2020, so instead they have embarked on a disgraceful witch hunt with one singular aim: topple the will of the American people and seize the power that they have zero chance at winning legitimately."

Mueller is investigating Russian intervention in the 2016 election and whether Trump's campaign conspired with Russia. But the House probes go far beyond collusion. The House intelligence panel has announced a separate probe not only into the Russian interference but also Trump's foreign financial interests. The Oversight and Reform Committee has launched multiple investigations into all facets of the administration.

The 81 names and entities on the Judiciary Committee's list touch all parts of Trump's life—the White House, his businesses, his campaign and the committee that oversaw the transition from campaign to presidency. There are also people connected to Russian interference in the 2016 campaign, including participants in a meeting at Trump Tower with a Russian lawyer before the election.

The committee is also asking the FBI, the Justice Department and others for documents related to possible pardons for Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, former national security adviser Michael Flynn and former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort. All three have been charged in special counsel Mueller's investigation.

In a request sent to the White House, the committee asks for information surrounding former FBI Director James Comey's termination, communications with Justice Department officials, the Trump Tower meeting and multiple other matters. Trump Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said the White House had received the letter and "the counsel's office and relevant White House officials will review it and respond at the appropriate time."

The panel's list includes two of the president's sons, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, and many of his current and former close advisers, including Steve Bannon, longtime spokeswoman Hope Hicks, former Press Secretary Sean Spicer and former White House Counsel Don McGahn.

The letters to Hicks and Spicer ask them to turn over any work diaries, journals or "a description of daily events related to your employment" by Trump. The committee asked McGahn for documents related to any discussion involving Trump regarding the possibility of firing Mueller around June of 2017 "or any conversation in which President Trump stated, in words or substance, that he wanted the Mueller investigation shut down, restrained or otherwise limited in or around December 2017."

The committee seeks from Cohen, Trump's former personal lawyer who called Trump a "con man" and a "cheat" in congressional testimony last week, "any audio or video recordings" of conversations with Trump or conversations about his presidential campaign.

The list of document requests also includes the National Rifle Association and Trump's embattled charitable foundation, which he is shutting down after agreeing to a court-supervised process.

Nadler said in most of the letters that he was limiting the requests to documents that had already been provided to other investigators, an attempt to receive as much as possible in the two-week timeline. The committee said there might be additional requests.

The panel expects some people to produce right away, and others may eventually face subpoenas, according to a person familiar with the investigation. The person declined to be named to discuss the committee's internal process.

Nadler said Sunday on ABC's "This Week," the Democrats are simply doing "our job to protect the rule of law" after Republicans during the first two years of Trump's term were "shielding the president from any proper accountability."

"We're far from making decisions" about impeachment, he said.

Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, a Democratic member of the panel, said Monday that "impeachment is the end of a process, not the beginning of a process," adding that it should not be a "fetish," nor should it be "a taboo."

The top Republican on the committee, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, said Nadler was "recklessly prejudging the president for obstruction" and pursuing evidence to back up his conclusion.

Good Housekeeping

Buckeyes have started blooming let the hummingbird and butterfly season commence

By NORMAN WINTER
Tribune News Service

The red buckeye blooms have started so let the hummingbird and butterfly season commence. This report came in the form of a photograph from an excited gardener who wanted it identified. He was seeing it for the first time and was riveted by its beauty.

I still get thrilled when I see them at the forests' edge or along the roadside. You have to admit it is pretty amazing how nature times blooming in sequence with the return of the hummingbirds. The red buckeye, known botanically as Aesculus pavia is cold hardy in zones 4-8 and native from Texas to Illinois to Ohio and down the eastern seaboard to Florida. It excels as an early bloomer in the backyard wildlife habitat, where it feeds hummingbirds and bees.

To me the plants are showiest when grown in the morning sun, afternoon shade situation. They also thrive as understory plants much like the dogwood or eastern redbud. There is a yellow form called flavescens that stands out even more in the shady environment, but this is just the start of buckeye season.

One of the most beautiful buckeyes is the Red Horse Chestnut, Aesculus x carnea that is actually a cross between the native red buckeye and the European horse chestnut Aesculus hippocastanum. The name Red Horse Chestnut doesn't really do it justice.

I watched it blooming for weeks in full sun in close proximity to the Mountain Creek Inn at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Ga. All I can say is WOW what a looker for a small tree. It bloomed later in the season finishing before the start of the amazing bottlebrush buckeye, Aesculus parviflora.

This bottlebrush buckeye was seen growing at the roadside in Georgia.

TNS

The bottlebrush buckeye is nothing short of spectacular with white blooms reaching 12-14 inches long. It performed wonderfully at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah which many might say impossible way too hot.

Last year however caught me in total shock as I saw one on the roadside that was huge and was swarming with a variety of butterflies, honeybees and other pollinators. This roadside show was obviously on one that received no love, care or attention throughout the year.

The bottlebrush buckeye is native to Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and South Carolina but, don't fret if your state isn't listed. Though it is native to the Southeast, it is cold hardy in zones 4-8 meaning a large geographic area can grow it as well as the other two I mentioned above.

As is typical of native plants it will take a little searching on your part to locate your source. As mentioned, morning sun and afternoon shade are ideal. Beds that are fertile, moist but well-drained are preferred.

Prepare a bed for your buckeyes and companion shrubs by incorporating 3- to- 4 inches of organic matter and 2 pounds of a 5-10-5 fertilizer per 100 square feet of planting area, tilling deeply.

Don't skimp on the hole! Dig the planting hole two to three times as wide as the rootball but no deeper. Place the buckeye in the hole, and backfill with soil to two-thirds the depth. Tamp the soil and water to settle, add the remaining backfill, repeat the process and apply mulch. This will allow for the quickest root-expansion and acclimation to your garden.

Be sure to keep a good 3- to 4-inch layer of mulch, particularly in the summer. While they are considered a medium water user, know that drought conditions usually mean a less than the ideal specimen. Treat it like an azalea from the standpoint of mulch and moisture.

Most red buckeyes that I have seen over the years are 10 to 15-feet tall and as wide and are perfect for the edge of woodland gardens. The red horse chestnut can reach 30-feet tall and the bottlebrush buckeye 10 to 12-feet tall.

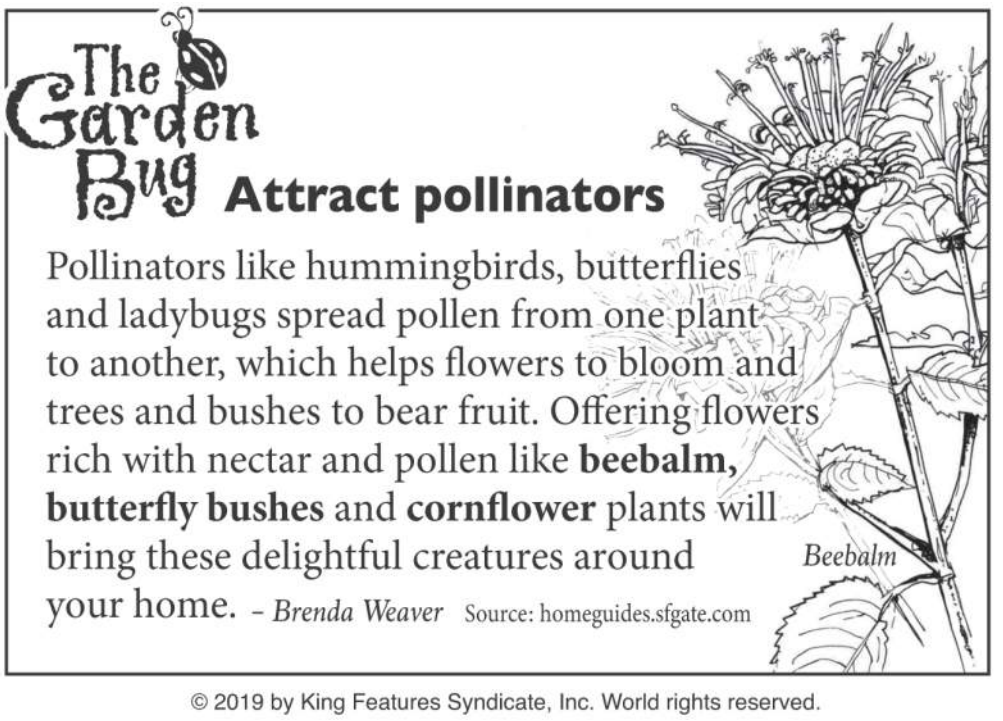
The seeds or nuts that might be formed are not to be eaten. The blooms with bees, birds, and butterflies, however, make these buckeyes all worthy of a prominent place in the landscape.

TNS

The red horse chestnut can reach 30-feet tall. This one was seen blooming at Callaway Gardens.

TNS

Red buckeyes are native over a wide area of the eastern United States.


The Garden Bug
Attract pollinators
Pollinators like hummingbirds, butterflies and ladybugs spread pollen from one plant to another, which helps flowers to bloom and trees and bushes to bear fruit. Offering flowers rich with nectar and pollen like beebalm, butterfly bushes and cornflower plants will bring these delightful creatures around your home. – Brenda Weaver Source: homeguides.sfgate.com
Beebalm

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Life & Style

Keith Flint, singer of electronic band The Prodigy, dies

LONDON (AP)—Keith Flint, the fiery frontman of British dance-electronic band The Prodigy, was found dead Monday at his home near London, the band said. He was 49.

Prodigy co-founder Liam Howlett said in an Instagram post that Flint killed himself over the weekend.

"I'm shell shocked ... confused and heart broken," he wrote.

Police confirmed that the body of a 49-year-old man had been found at a home in Brook Hill, northeast of London. They said the death was being treated as non-suspicious and a file would be sent to the coroner—standard practice in cases of violent or unexplained deaths.

Flint

Flint was the stage persona of the band, whose 1990s hits "Firestarter" and "Breathe" were an incendiary fusion of techno, breakbeat and acid house music.

He was renowned for his manic stage energy and distinctive look: black eyeliner and hair spiked into two horns.

"A true pioneer, innovator and legend," the band said in a statement confirming his death. "He will be forever missed."

The Prodigy sold 30 million records, helping to take rave music from an insular community of party-goers to an international audience. They had seven No. 1 albums in Britain, most recently with "No Tourists" in 2018.

The band attracted criticism for the 1997 single "Smack My Bitch Up," and the accompanying sex- and drug-fueled video. The National Organization for Women accused the song of encouraging violence against women, and it was banned by the BBC.

The band denied misogyny, pointing out that the song's protagonist is revealed in the video to be a woman.

Born Keith Charles Flint on Sept. 17, 1969 in east London, he moved to east of the city to Braintree, Essex as a child, where he met Howlett at a nightclub.

The Prodigy was formed in the early 1990s, with Howlett as producer and Flint originally employed as a dancer before becoming singer and the onstage focal point.

Luke Perry, heartthrob on '90210,' dies at 52 after stroke

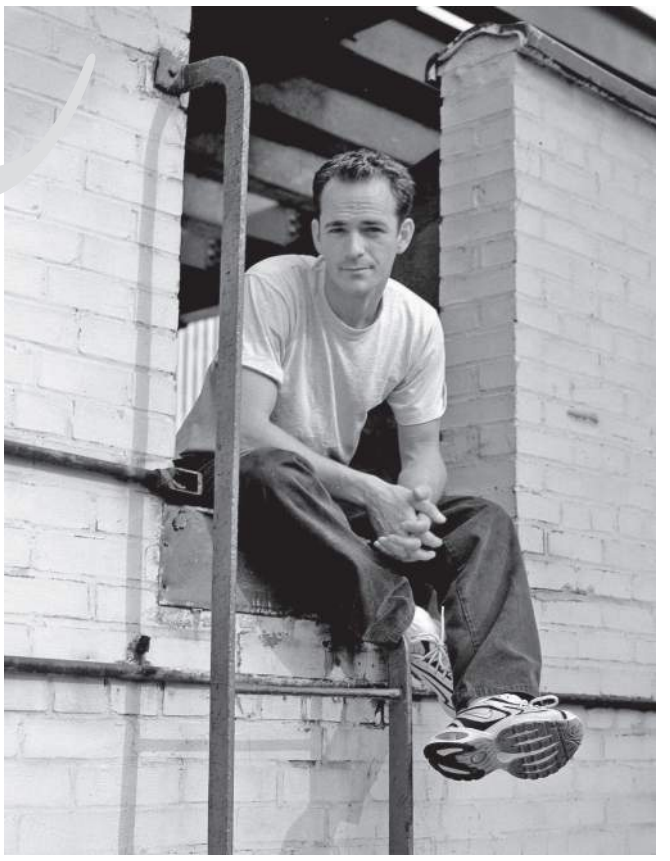
By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Luke Perry, who gained instant heartthrob status as wealthy rebel Dylan McKay on "Beverly Hills, 90210," died Monday after suffering a massive stroke, his publicist said. He was 52.

Perry was surrounded by family and friends when he died, publicist Arnold Robinson said. The actor had been hospitalized since last Wednesday, after a 911 call summoned medical help to his home in the Sherman Oaks section of Los Angeles.

"The family appreciates the outpouring of support and prayers that have been extended to Luke from around the world, and respectfully request privacy in this time of great mourning," Robinson said in a statement. Those at Perry's bedside included his children, Jake and Sophie; fiancée Wendy Madison Bauer; former wife, Minnie Sharp, and mother Ann Bennett.

Although Perry was best-known for his role as McKay, he enjoyed a prolific film and television career. Most recently, he played construction company owner Fred Andrews, father of main character Archie Andrews, for three seasons on "Riverdale," the CW series that gives a dark take on "Archie" comics. A fourth season has been slated.



In this June 29, 2001 file photo, actor Luke Perry poses during an interview in New York. AP

The actor's next big screen role will be in Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time In Hollywood," which is slated for release in July.

"90210" co-star Ian Ziering paid tribute to his co-star on Twitter, where fans and celebrities shared their memories of Perry and mourned him . "I will forever bask in the loving memories we've shared over the last thirty years," Ziering said. "May your journey forward be enriched by the magnificent souls who have passed before you, just like you have done here, for those you leave behind."

Born and raised in rural Fredericktown, Ohio, Perry gained fame on "Beverly Hills, 90210," which ran from 1990 to 2000. In a 2006 interview with The Associated Press, he recounted being partly inspired to pursue acting by a photo of Paul Newman his mother kept on her mirror.

He played out the memory of hearing his mother say, "He's the most beautiful man in the world, honey ... he's a movie star."

"I thought, 'OK, that's cool.' I watched him and, 'Yeah, man, who didn't want to be Paul Newman!'"

But Perry expanded his interests far beyond acting, identifying history as a passion and family a priority.

"When you are younger you can have only work, and I did for a long time," he told the AP in 2006. "But it doesn't command my attention that way anymore. A lot of the mysteries and the questions I had about it I've figured out, but life offers up mysteries every day."

He had roles in a handful of films, including "The Fifth Element," ''Buffy the Vampire Slayer," ''8 Seconds" and "American Strays," appeared in HBO's prison drama "Oz" as a televangelist convicted of fraud, and voiced cartoons including "The Incredible Hulk" and "Mortal Kombat."

He made his Broadway musical debut as Brad in the "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," and starred on London's West End in another stage adaptation of a film, "When Harry Met Sally." In recent years he starred in the series "Ties That Bind" and "Body of Proof."

The same day he was hospitalized, Fox TV announced that it would be running a six-episode return of "90210" featuring most of the original cast, but Perry was not among those announced.

On the original series, Perry's character went from loner to part of a close-knit circle that included twins Brenda and Brandon Walsh (Shannen Doherty, Jason Priestley), but also endured a string of romantic, family and other setbacks, including drug addiction. Perry left the series in 1995 to pursue other roles, returning in 1998 for the rest of the show's run as a guest star.

In a 2011 interview with the AP, Perry said he and his male co-stars were a "really good strong core group" while the show aired and maintained close ties. The friendship and trust he shared with Priestley created a sort of "shorthand" when it came to filming, Perry said.

Ziering, Ringwald and Whedon react

Reaction to the death of Luke Perry, whose credits included "Beverly Hills, 90210," ''Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and "Riverdale."

"Luke Perry was a kindhearted and incredibly talented artist. It was an honor to be able to work with him. My thoughts and prayers go out to him and his loved ones."

—Leonardo DiCaprio, who co-stars with Perry in the upcoming film "Once Upon a Time In Hollywood," via Twitter.

"I'm finding it hard to grasp that he will no longer be around to give long hugs and share his wisdom and kindness with all of us. I'm thinking of his family. His children. I pray for them to heal and find peace in this devastating loss. I just can't believe it."

"Riverdale" co-star Lili Reinhart, via Twitter

"My heart is broken. He meant so much to so many. Such a very special person. I share my deep sadness with his family and all who loved him. Such a terrible loss."

—Jennie Garth, to *People*

"I will forever bask in the loving memories we've shared over the last 30 years. May your journey forward be enriched by the magnificent souls who have passed before you, just like you have done here, for those you leave behind."

—Ian Ziering, via Twitter

"My heart is broken. I will miss you so much Luke Perry. Sending all my love to your family."
—Molly Ringwald, via Twitter

"A father figure and mentor to the show's young cast, Luke was incredibly generous, and he infused the set with love and kindness."

—Statement from "Riverdale" producers and cast

"Luke Perry was my 1st crush. Eh, more like obsession (I wore pins w his face on them to school) I used to dream of making it to LA just to meet him. I never got to, but I've always heard he was a really great person."

—Olivia Munn, via Twitter

"Luke Perry. My teen crush. I'm glad I got to tell you. Sheepishly red faced and all. You were lovely and you gave great hugs. Grateful to witness and experience your kindness and warmth. #RestInPeace love. Blessings to your family."

—Rosario Dawson, via Twitter.

"The first time I met Luke Perry we talked about what kind of movie we wanted 'Buffy' to be. I asked if he'd ever seen 'Near Dark' and he gave me a look of HOW DARE YOU SIR and I knew we'd get along. Funny, committed, and always gracious. He shouldn't be gone."

—Joss Whedon, via Twitter

"Heartbreaking. Absolutely heartbreaking."

—Josh Gad, via Twitter

"Luke Perry was a character actor in the body of a heartthrob. Much respect."

—Jon Cryer, via Twitter

"Woke up this morning a ball of tears. Luke Perry was the kindest, warmest, most loving human being. He always went out of his way to make me feel safe, heard and seen in his presence. I love you so much Luke. Thank you for being a ray of light for me and so many."

—"Riverdale" actress Asha Bromfield, via Instgram

"Will miss ya, 'Dad.' Grateful for the chance to have known you."

—Alyson Stoner, who co-starred with Perry in "Alice Upside Down," via Twitter

"Very saddened by this loss. Luke Perry was not only a talented actor_but a warm, kind person who made his home state proud."

—U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, via Twitter

"Rest Luke—the way you always treated me (and anyone I ever introduced you to, no matter how much they screamed and squealed with joy and excitement)—in peace."

—Donnie Wahlberg, via Twitter

"RIP Luke Perry. My heart hurts for your family."

—Viola Davis, via Twitter

"I am absolutely heartbroken. Luke was a tremendous force in the lives of so many. He was a very sensitive soul who was kind, generous and he fought for the underdog. He was a strong voice and an advocate who will be so missed by all who knew him. He has left his mark—never to be forgotten. My heart goes out to his family, friends and fans around the globe."

—Gabrielle Carteris, SAG-AFTRA president who co-starred on "Beverly Hills, 90210"

"one of the kindest most gentle souls this world has ever known #riplukeperry"

—"Riverdale" co-star Robin Givens, via Twitter

"I abruptly woke at 4:30am thinking about you Luke & I couldn't go back to sleep, then 5 hours later I hear you are gone. The tears won't stop & they never ever will. You were that guy, that forever friend, we always had each others back & I will always remember you this way…"

—"Buffy the Vampire Slayer" film co-star Kristy Swanson, via Twitter

"So heartbroken about Luke. He was a father, brother, friend, and mentor. Each night before he had to shoot a scene, he'd call me and we'd talk about…everything. I will miss those calls. And my heart goes out to all his family and friends."

—"Riverdale" creator Roberto Aguirre Sacasa, via Twitter

"Luke will always be part of the FOX family. Our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones during this extremely difficult time. He will be deeply missed"

—"Beverly Hills, 90210" network Fox, in a statement

$1.5 billion Mega Millions jackpot claimed in South Carolina

By REBECCA SANTAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The mystery is over. Partly.

Lottery officials on Monday announced that a South Carolina resident had stepped forward to claim the $1.5 billion Mega Millions jackpot from last October—the largest jackpot payout to a single winner in U.S. history—but elected to remain anonymous.

A lottery commission statement said the person submitting the claim for what was the second-largest lottery in U.S. history has chosen the cash option, a one-time payment of nearly $878,000,000.

The biggest jackpot in U.S. history—a $1.585 billion Powerball prize won on Jan. 13, 2016—was split between buyers in three states. That jackpot also had some mystery as the California winners didn't come forward until about six months later.

"We are delighted that the winner is a South Carolinian and has come forward to claim this remarkable prize," said Hogan Brown, the Commission's Executive Director. "We respect the winner's decision to remain anonymous, and we will honor the winner's wishes."

The commission said the winner "marvels at how every decision made that day brought the winner to the store, at that very moment" to buy the winning ticket. The winner allowed a fellow customer to make a Mega Millions lottery ticket purchase in front of the winner while in line at the store, the commission said.

"A simple act of kindness led to an amazing outcome," the statement said.

South Carolina is one of a handful of states where winners can remain anonymous—a choice that winners often make to protect themselves from being targeted by criminals or unscrupulous people seeking money.

The winning ticket was sold between Oct. 20 and Oct. 23 of last year at the KC Mart convenience store in Simpsonville, a suburb of the South Carolina city of Greenville.

"It's exciting. Good for me, good for him, her, whoever it is," said Chirag Patel, owner of the convenience store. That's because Patel gets a $50,000 payment for selling the winning ticket—something he wouldn't have gotten if the prize went unclaimed.

Patel said he'll use the money to pay for renovations to the store in Simpsonville as well as some of the six other convenience stores he owns. When asked why he thinks the winner took so long to come forward, Patel said: "That's a lot of money to manage."

For months, South Carolina residents had speculated on why the winner hadn't stepped forward.

Some theorized that the winner was on the run from police and feared a background check if he or she won. Some thought the winner was so overwhelmed at seeing the winning numbers pop up that he or she died on the spot. Others speculated that the winning ticket had been purchased by an office pool and was now the subject of litigation.

Melania Trump talks up homework with kids on 'Be Best' tour

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—Melania Trump gave a second-grader a pep talk about homework Monday as she toured an Oklahoma elementary school to open a three-state tour highlighting her "Be Best" initiative.

As the first lady talked up the value of teamwork, the second-grader appeared to give her an earful about homework.

"You wished you didn't have homework?" Mrs. Trump responded to the girl at Dove School of Discovery in Tulsa. "Well, everyone wishes that, but it's important." The first lady suggested the girl spend an hour on homework "so you're prepared for the next day."

An hour of homework would be on the high end for a second-grader.

The first lady's school visit, which included classroom tours, was the first stop on an overnight trip to spotlight the "Be Best" themes of child well-being, online safety and bullying prevention, and opioid abuse.

In one classroom, pre-kindergarteners used crayons to draw acts of kindness they had performed after a teacher read a story about being kind. One girl excitedly told the first lady she had seen her on the news and asked about President Donald Trump, who remained in Washington.

"He's in the Oval Office," Mrs. Trump replied.

Goggle-wearing sixth-graders in a science class showed how they work as teams to measure the density of different colored liquids. Second-graders studying language arts worked in groups on a project about historical African-American figures and their struggles.

Seated at one table, the first lady asked the pupils how they liked working as a team. In response to a comment from a boy at another table, she said, "You always need to be kind and show love."

From Oklahoma, Mrs. Trump headed for Microsoft Corp. in Redmond, Washington, where an employee demonstrated how he uses technology to limit his teenagers' screen time and control the websites they can access and who can see what they're doing online. Another employee, one with limited mobility as a result of a stroke and subsequent car crash, showed off a device that makes it easier for people like him to use an Xbox video gaming console.

Art collected by Jewish lawyer before WWII goes to auction

In this undated photo people look at some of the art which is going up for auction at Swann Auction Galleries in New York that were once part of a 6,000-piece collection amassed by a Jewish attorney in Germany before pieces were scattered and lost as the Nazis took over. The works collected by Ismar Littmann being offered Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at Swann are mostly drawings, etchings and lithographs. AP

By JAMIE STENGLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS (AP)—About 200 works of art from a Jewish lawyer's collection that were spirited out of Nazi Germany to the U.S. are going up for auction.

The works collected by Ismar Littmann being offered Tuesday at Swann Auction Galleries in New York are mostly drawings, etchings and lithographs. They were once part of a collection of about 6,000 pieces he amassed. The works being auctioned are pieces brought out of Germany before World War II by Littmann's son, who eventually settled in Texas.

Todd Weyman, auction house vice president, said the collection is notable for its singular focus on German works.

"His collecting was very optimistic for what was to happen," Weyman said. "He was looking forward to putting together this great German collection."

The civic-minded collector in Breslau, which after World War II became the Polish city of Wroclaw, co-founded the Breslau Jewish Museum in the city that had a thriving art scene. Littmann was friends with many of the artists whose works he acquired, including Otto Mueller and Heinrich Tischler.

But with the Nazis in power, restrictions on Jewish lawyers led to the demise of Littmann's practice. He killed himself in 1934.

His son, Edward, who changed the spelling of his last name to Littman, immigrated to the U.S. in 1933. He returned to Germany after his father died and was able to ship around 800 works back to the U.S., said Edward Littman's son, John Littman, 61, of Houston.

John Littman says there's no way to know how much of the collection, which had a focus on German Expressionism, still exists. He says some pieces were confiscated, some destroyed and some sold under duress. The auction house notes that when Ismar Littmann's widow consigned about 160 works to a Berlin auction house, the Gestapo seized 64 of the works—11 went to a museum and the rest were burned.

John Littman said the family has worked to get around eight pieces restituted.

Spielberg's push against Netflix at the Oscars hits a nerve

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When Steven Spielberg speaks about the business of Hollywood, everyone generally listens and few dissent. But reports that he intends to support rule changes that could block Netflix from Oscars-eligibility have provoked a heated, and unwieldy, debate online this weekend. It has found the legendary filmmaker at odds with some industry heavyweights, who have pointed out that Netflix has been an important supporter of minority filmmakers and stories, especially in awards campaigns, while also reigniting the ongoing streaming versus theatrical debate.

Spielberg has weighed in before on whether streaming movies should compete for the film industry's most prestigious award (TV movies, he said last year, should compete for Emmys), but that was before Netflix nearly succeeded in getting its first best picture Oscar for Alfonso Cuaron's "Roma" at last week's Academy Awards. Netflix, of course, did not win the top award—"Green Book," which was produced partially by Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment, did.

Still, Netflix was a legitimate contender and this year, the streaming service is likely to step up its awards game even more with Martin Scorsese's "The Irishman," which The Hollywood Reporter said may also gunning for a wide-theatrical release. A teaser ad aired during the 91st Oscars for the gangster drama said "in theaters next fall," instead of the "in select theaters" phrasing that was used for "Roma."

But Netflix also isn't playing by the same rules as other studios. The company doesn't report theatrical grosses, for one, and it's been vexing some more traditional Hollywood executives throughout this award season and there have been whispers in recent weeks that a reckoning is coming.

Now, Spielberg and others are planning to do something about it by supporting a revised film academy regulation at an upcoming meeting of the organization's board of governors that would disqualify Netflix from the Oscars, or at least how the streaming giant currently operates during awards season.

This year "Roma" got a limited theatrical qualifying run and an expensive campaign with one of the industry's most successful awards publicists, Lisa Taback, leading the charge. But Netflix operates somewhat outside of the industry while also infiltrating its most important institutions, like the Oscars and the Motion Picture Association of America. Some like Spielberg, are worried about what that will mean for the future of movies.

"Steven feels strongly about the difference between the streaming and theatrical situation," an Amblin spokesperson told IndieWire's Anne Thompson late last week. "He'll be happy if the others will join (his campaign) when that comes up. He will see what happens."

UK royals to block internet trolls on social media sites

LONDON (AP)—Britain's royal family warned Monday that it will block internet trolls posting offensive messages on its social media channels—and may report offenders to police.

Buckingham Palace, Clarence House and Kensington Palace spelled out the policy banning offensive, hateful and racist language. The royal households say they reserve the right to determine who is violating their guidelines, and whether or not comments could be blocked.

"The aim of our social media channels is to create an environment where our community can engage safely in debate and is free to make comments, questions and suggestions," the guidelines said. "We ask that anyone engaging with our social media channels shows courtesy, kindness and respect for all other members of our social media communities."

The guidelines come amid concern about the online abuse aimed at the wives of Prince William and Prince Harry. Much of the social media abuse has centered around rival fans of the Duchess of Cambridge, the former Kate Middleton and the Duchess of Sussex, the former Meghan Markle.

AP

In this Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2018 file photo, Britain›s Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, left, and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex arrive to attend the Christmas day service at St Mary Magdalene Church in Sandringham in Norfolk, England.

The guidelines insist posts shouldn't "contain spam, be defamatory of any person, deceive others, be obscene, offensive, threatening, abusive, hateful, inflammatory or promote sexually explicit material or violence" or "promote discrimination based on race, sex, religion, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or age."

Pharrell to launch music festival in Virginia Beach in April

NEW YORK (AP)—Pharrell is heading home to Virginia Beach to launch a new music and culture festival.

The Grammy-winning superstar announced Monday SOMETHING IN THE WATER, a multi-day event he's calling a "cultural experience" that will debut April 26-28. He will perform on a stage set on the beach; other performers include Missy Elliott, Travis Scott, Migos, Dave Matthews Band, Janelle Monae, Diplo, SZA, Lil Uzi Vert and Pusha T.

Tickets go on sale Friday.

Pharrell said in an interview with The Associated Press that he created the festival to give back to the community that raised him and helped him achieve his goals and dreams.

"Virginians are taste-makers," he said, naming famous folks from the state, from Ella Fitzgerald to Allen Iverson to Missy Elliott.

"Virginia has been home to some of the most gifted artists, athletes, and scientists to ever live. And it makes sense—the people of Virginia are one-of-a-kind: uniquely gritty, bold, and brilliant," Pharrell said. "Virginia needs this right now and the world will see what we Virginians have known all along: there really is Something in the Water."

Judge allows preservation of more records in Spacey case

NANTUCKET, Mass. (AP)—A judge has approved a request by attorneys for Kevin Spacey to preserve more phone records in the sexual assault case against the Oscar-winning actor.

Spacey

The Nantucket District Court judge on Monday allowed a motion to extend an earlier order preserving phone and electronic records between the alleged victim and his former girlfriend until the end of 2017.

Spacey did not attend the hearing and was not required to be there.

The 59-year-old former "House of Cards" star is charged with sexually assaulting the then-18-year-old son of a former Boston TV anchor on Nantucket in 2016.

Spacey pleaded not guilty in January to felony indecent assault and battery. His lawyers have called the accusations "patently false."

It's the first criminal case brought against Spacey after several sexual misconduct allegations crippled his career in 2017.

Report: Saudi talk show suspended after critical views aired

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Authorities in Saudi Arabia have suspended a new television talk show that tackled sensitive issues and aired critical views after just two weeks, according to a report in state-linked media.

The suspension comes amid a wide-ranging crackdown on government critics.

The state-linked Sabq news website reported Sunday that the show "With Dawood" was halted for unknown reasons. The evening talk show had been airing on the new state-run SBC channel.

Sabq says the surprise decision to stop airing the program came after just six episodes, which focused on topics including runaway Saudi women and domestic violence, slums, foreigners married to Saudis and other issues.

The show was rare in that it gave Saudis a platform to express their grievances, to press officials like the crown prince for action and to recommend policy changes. This also made it a target of nationalists and pro-Saudi Twitter accounts, who hailed the decision to suspend the show in mocking Twitter posts Monday.

The show's host, Dawood al-Shiryan, is a household name in Saudi Arabia and an experienced broadcaster who's also overseen elements of the kingdom's tightly monitored and censored media landscape.

There was no immediate announcement on whether al-Shiryan retains his post as head of the Saudi Broadcasting Authority. Representatives of the Saudi Broadcasting Authority could not be immediately reached for comment.

Al-Shiryan previously hosted a long-running evening talk show until November 2017, around the time that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was solidifying his position as heir to the throne and clamping down on potential rivals and perceived critics by detaining moderate clerics, poets, businessmen and even top princes.

He interviewed Prince Mohammed for the royal's second-ever TV interview, which aired in mid-2017 on state TV and the Saudi-owned MBC channel.

Al-Shiryan's new show followed a similar format to his previous program, with guests discussing sensitive societal issues and people calling in.

His first episode focused on Saudi women runaways. It aired not long after an 18-year-old Saudi woman's plea for help from an airport hotel room in Thailand grabbed international headlines and she was granted asylum in Canada.

Al-Shiryan interviewed a Saudi woman living in exile in London who said she was raped by her brother at the age of eight or nine years old. She discussed the lack of protection abused women have in Saudi Arabia and the need to change male guardianship laws.

The episode also included an interview with a Saudi male who said he'd fled the kingdom because he had gender dysphoria.

In another episode, al-Shiryan presses a guest about why foreign women married to Saudi men are categorized as "house workers" by immigration officials. When the guest denies this, al-Shiryan plays video clips of several women thanking immigration officials for changing their status on a government portal—an example of how the show attempted to balance criticism with praise for responsive government agencies.

Ex-boyfriend offers woman money to take him back

DEAR ABBY: I was involved with a man ("Mike") I cared deeply about. One day he came to me saying he had a "secret" he needed to share. He explained that he was in love with another woman, and they had decided to get back together. I asked him all the normal questions. He explained as best as he could and apologized.

Three weeks later, Mike called me and told me he missed me and thought he had made a mistake. I went over and stayed the night. I didn't call him after that, but now he's calling me all the time.

Mike is still involved with the woman he broke up with me for. I have asked him repeatedly to leave me alone, but he is now offering me money and promising to pay my bills if I will be involved with him while he's with this other woman.

I need your advice. I could use the help financially, but I don't want to get involved with this situation because my feelings are at risk.

FRAGILE IN FLORIDA

DEAR FRAGILE: I wonder if the woman Mike reconciled with has a clue that he is cheating already. He does not care about you or have your best interests at heart. He's attempting to put your relationship on a cash-on-delivery basis not out of concern for your financial difficulties but because he has no respect for your integrity. How insulting! Although you may need financial help, if you value your self-respect, turn him down. And from now on, block his calls because Mike is bad news.

DEAR ABBY: I have been living with intense grief and depression for a number of years. I have tried every way imaginable to deal with it, to no avail. I am no longer interested in fighting it. I have had suicidal ideation for years but haven't acted on it because of the pain it would cause my family.

Now it appears I have an answer. I have discovered that I have cancer. I have decided to do nothing about it and let it take me. I'm just not sure whether or not to tell my family.

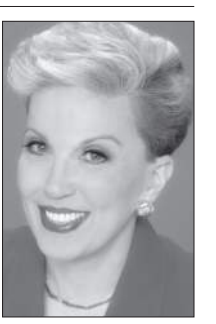
I am inclined to say nothing until it's too late, but I fear this decision will cause them as much pain as if I had died by my own hand. I don't want to be here, and I don't think I should have to be simply because others expect it. I don't have a close relationship with my family anyway, if that has any bearing. We speak infrequently at best. Your thoughts, please?

DONE WITH IT

DEAR DONE: I am sorry for your despair. You say your only question is whether to tell your family about your diagnosis because of the pain it may cause them, although you are not close and communicate infrequently. If you have truly made up your mind to refuse treatment, I vote for not informing them, which could be construed as trying to put them on a guilt trip. Everyone has a right to make this highly personal decision for themselves, but I hope you will remain in touch with your doctor, which may lessen any physical or psychological suffering you experience during the course of your disease.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



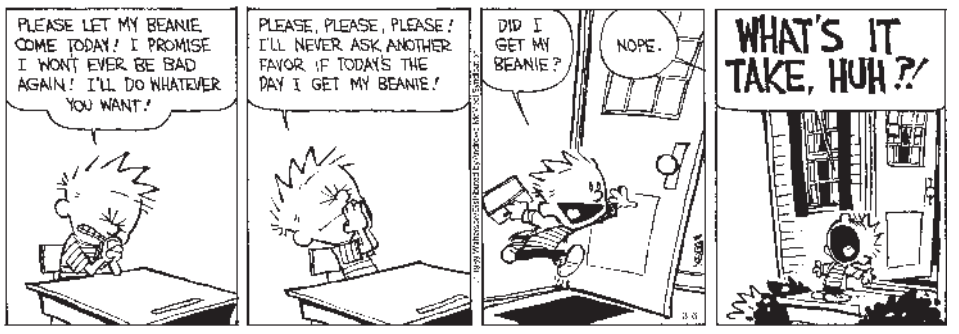
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

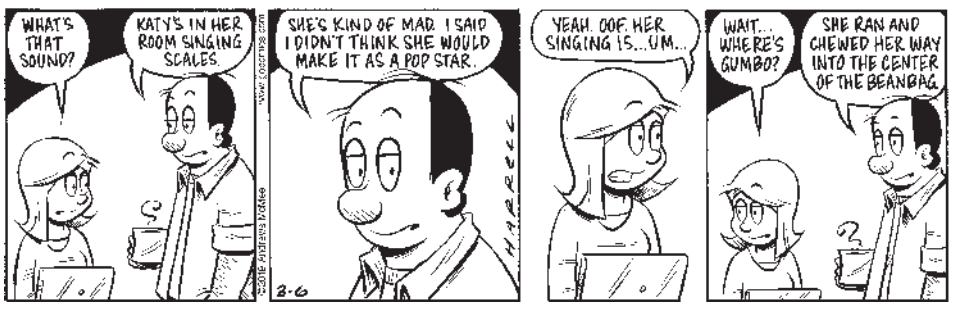

PLEASE LET MY BEANIE COME TODAY! I PROMISE I WON'T EVER BE BAD AGAIN! I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE! I'LL NEVER ASK ANOTHER FAVOR IF TODAY'S THE DAY I GET MY BEANIE!
DID I GET MY BEANIE?
NOPE.
WHAT'S IT TAKE, HUH?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
KATY'S IN HER ROOM SINGING SCALES.
SHE'S KIND OF MAD. I SAID I DIDN'T THINK SHE WOULD MAKE IT AS A POP STAR.
YEAH. OOF. HER SINGING IS...UM...
WAIT... WHERE'S GUMBO?
SHE RAN AND CHEWED HER WAY INTO THE CENTER OF THE BEANBAG.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Shade
4 Frontiersman Crockett
8 Pocket bread
12 100 percent
13 Dutch cheese
14 Pedestal occupant
15 Cowboy's sweetie
16 Do math
18 Slowpoke
20 Hydrocarbon suffix
21 Cushions
24 Persian Gulf emirate
28 Nutritional label info
32 Flamingo's color
33 Copper head?
34 Lauder of cosmetics
36 Summer on the Seine
37 Guns the engine
39 Toe of Italy's boot
41 Fashion
43 Hit with a stun gun
44 Ms. Thurman
46 Gossip
50 Baseball's "Iron Man"
55 Deluge refuge
56 Now, in a memo
57 Cowboy's neckwear
58 Luau bowlful
59 Quick swims
60 Winter blanket
61 Novelist Rand

DOWN

1 Crones
2 — Bator
3 First lady of scat
4 Proclaim
5 Nabokov novel
6 Batman portrayer Kilmer
7 Village People hit
8 Accumulate
9 Hollywood's Lupino
10 Nanny's charge
11 Hearty quaff
17 German conjunction
19 Wall St. debut
22 Platter
23 Attack
25 Coffin stand
26 Con
27 Furniture brand
28 2006 Pixar film
29 Help a hood
30 Tax
31 Actress Ward
35 "Calm down!"
38 Drinks noisily
40 Spell-off
42 Brit. record label
45 LAPD alerts
47 Wine valley
48 Helen's home
49 Related
50 Scoundrel
51 "— was saying ..."
52 Napkin's place
53 "— -Tiki"
54 "Evil Woman" band

Solution time: 23 mins.

H	I	P	S		C	A	R	P		C	H	O
B	L	O	T		L	I	E	J		A	A	A
O	K	L	A	H	O	M	A	N		M	R	T
			L	A	G	S		S	T	E	M	S
M	A	S	K	S			S	T	A	R		
A	P	P	S		P	O	L	E	C	A	T	S
A	S	I		A	R	D	O	R		M	A	I
M	E	D	A	L	I	S	T		B	A	R	D
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J	U	R	O	R		E	I	R	E			
A	P	M		M	I	D	D	L	E	M	A	N
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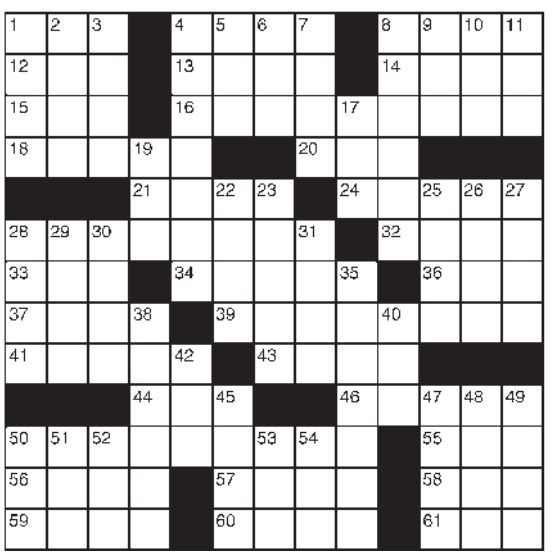
_	A	N		D	A	Y	S		S	A	T	E

Yesterday's answer 3-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shaquille O'Neal, 47; Connie Britton, 52; D.L. Hughley, 56; Rob Reiner, 72.

Happy Birthday: Channel your energy into something that will pay off, not something that will just allow you to tread water. Getting ahead and stabilizing your financial position will put your mind at ease. Refuse to let what others do or say consume you or cause you to do something foolish. The way to a better future is common sense and hard work. Your numbers are 8, 13, 24, 29, 31, 37, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Concentrate on what you need to do in order to keep things running smoothly. Today is about maintenance more than gains. See what needs adjusting, and leave time for a little pampering. Everything will fall into place. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Do what you can to help others, but not at your own expense. Only do what's feasible, and make suggestions that will teach others to do for themselves. Be sure to leave enough leisure time to rejuvenate. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Consider how best to protect your health and property from anyone trying to take advantage of you. Don't believe everything you hear. Someone will exaggerate about a situation in order to get you to help out or pay his or her way. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Leap into action. Don't waste time dealing with people who are overreacting or inconsistent. If you want to get ahead, you have to stay focused and follow through with your plans. Be blunt and say what's on your mind. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Slow down and think before you make a move. Look at every angle, and consider what will save you money. Personal adjustments should not cause disruptions in your life or the lives of those you love. 3 stars

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Get out and try something new. Surround yourself with people who have something to offer. Enjoy getting together with others; you will get an honest opinion that will be helpful when making a personal decision. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take a moment to review what you've done, where you are and what you want to do moving forward. Don't let someone's negativity get in the way or cause you to miss out on something you want to pursue. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Learn from someone with experience. Check out what's new in your neighborhood or get involved in a movement that promises to bring about positive change in your community. Anger solves nothing, but taking intelligent, positive actions solves a lot. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Any changes you want to make should be looked at carefully. Refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans or distract you from getting things done. Protect against situations that could lead to injuries. Choose peace and love over discord. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You can make a move as long as you don't jeopardize your health or an important personal relationship. Much can be accomplished, but you have to go about it the right way. Being reasonable and intelligent will make your life easier. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* An unexpected change to the way you feel or the way someone treats you will leave you wondering what to do next. Stick close to home, and take care of personal finances and domestic matters that need to be handled with care. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stick to the rules and regulations, and follow procedures you know will work. Staying on top of your expenses as well as your promises will help you avoid being taken advantage of by someone who is indulgent. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are opportunistic, playful and extravagant. You are impulsive and ambitious.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	7	4					
	2				3			
4		9				8		
1		2				4		
3			5			7		
	4				7	2		
		1	8	7	5	6	3	
						5	7	9
							2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	5	8	6	1	7	9	2	4
9	7	6	3	2	4	1	5	8
2	1	4	5	8	9	6	7	3
8	2	5	7	6	1	4	3	9
7	6	9	2	4	3	8	1	5
4	3	1	8	9	5	2	6	7
5	9	2	1	3	8	7	4	6
6	8	3	4	7	2	5	9	1
1	4	7	9	5	6	3	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'A STAR IS BORN' (FILM) Solution: 7 letters

S	I	N	G	E	R	A	F	I	V	O	C	A	L	S
D	E	E	L	L	E	P	P	A	H	C	H	R	A	R
N	I	L	O	V	E	E	V	A	D	E	A	A	D	E
A	L	S	T	E	U	D	E	R	A	C	E	T	Y	T
B	R	O	Z	N	E	R	O	L	R	M	A	S	E	T
G	A	N	E	S	I	C	S	C	I	O	E	T	L	E
E	H	L	R	C	E	H	O	T	O	L	T	H	D	F
O	C	A	D	R	O	N	S	M	D	O	A	H	A	G
R	N	B	L	W	C	T	A	O	I	M	P	M	R	A
G	O	E	S	E	I	N	O	L	U	L	E	E	B	I
E	S	L	R	E	A	N	L	S	B	H	A	I	R	L
I	K	T	B	G	G	E	I	O	L	C	E	L	A	L
V	C	Y	E	A	A	C	B	R	O	W	N	S	M	I
O	A	R	G	D	A	B	O	W	E	I	F	L	O	W
M	J	A	L	L	Y	A	L	C	E	C	I	D	N	R

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Alec, Ally, Baldwin, Band, Bobby, Bradley, Brown, Carl, Chappelle, Charlie, Concert, Cooper, Dave, Dice Clay, Duets, Elliott, Eric, Fame, Fetters, Gaga, Gail, George, Hair, Heal, Jackson, Label, Lady, Lead, Limo, Lorenzo, Love, Manager, Maybe It's Time, Movie, Musical, Nelson, Noodles, Rafi, Ramon, Record, Rez, Rose, Roth, Sam, Shows, Singer, Star, Vocals, Will, Wolfie

Yesterday's Answer: Shoes

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Aquaville

(1) Manager
At Least 3 years experience
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(1) Motor Boat Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Mechanical Job

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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is in need of:
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At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Diesel Engines
(2) Motor Boat Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Mechanical Job
(1) Carpenter
(1) Maintenance Repairer
(1) Accountant
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Preparing Financial Status of the company

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Macs Marine

is in need of:
(1) Commercial Diver
At least 3 years experience
in Scuba Diving

(1) Motor Boat Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable
in Mechanical Job

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

www.saipantribune.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AM MACHINE SHOP

is in need of:
(5) MACHINIST
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in fabrication and modifying parts

(2) CAR AIRCON TECHNICIAN
At least 3 years experience

(2) WELDER
At least 3 years experience

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 322-0102

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Position: Accountant

Qualifications: Must be a College Degree with at least five year experience in General Accounting. Must be knowledgeable in the preparation of Financial Statements. Must be knowledgeable in Peach Tree and be able to work flexible hours. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience beginning at $700.00/semi-monthly. Interested applicants are requested to fill up the company's application form and submit with a copy of Driver's License at our office in Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Ground Floor no later than March 15, 2018.

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
dba: Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant
Kinpachi BBQ Garden Restaurant

Assistant Manager (1): Be able to assist the general manager in the supervision of business establishment to ensure the restaurant & stores efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the restaurant & stores to attract customers. Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Must have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products.

Restaurant Supervisor (2): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Accountant (1): Efficient in handling financial records, statements & reports. Analyze financial information & prepare entries to accounts such as general ledgers. Reports & records daily transactions, do filing & bookkeeping. Prepare financial statements, taxes, bank deposits balance sheets, profit & loss statements & other reports. Petty cash custodian, maintain inventory records. Estimates purchasing costs & requisitions of merchandise, items needed in the store, rest. & building maintenance or purchase merchandise, items to be sold or use.

Restaurant Waitress (1): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Cook (4): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

General Maintenance (3): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including holidays, weekends and night time schedules.

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Cowboys putting franchise tag on Lawrence again

TEXAS (AP)—The Dallas Cowboys are placing the franchise tag on DeMarcus Lawrence for the second straight year. Their star defensive end doesn't appear to be in any rush to sign the lucrative one-year contract this time.

Two people with knowledge of the decision said Monday the Cowboys had decided on another tag while the sides keep working on a long-term deal. The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the decision hasn't been announced.

The move means Lawrence has a one-year offer for $20.5 million, 120 percent more than he made under the tag last season. Even if the 26-year-old signs it, Lawrence and his representatives have until July 15 to work out a long-term deal with Dallas.

Last year, Lawrence signed a $17.1 million contract the same day the Cowboys placed the franchise tag on him. He seemed happy to try to prove a career-best season with 14½ sacks in 2017 wasn't a fluke.

Not long after another Pro Bowl year and double-digit sacks with 10½ last season, Lawrence took to Twitter to indicate he's now looking for a long-term deal. If he doesn't sign the one-year tender under the franchise tag, Lawrence can skip offseason workouts without being fined.

AP

In this Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018, file photo, Dallas Cowboys defensive end Demarcus Lawrence (90) plays during the first half of an NFL football game against the Washington Redskins in Arlington, Texas.

In other news, the Atlanta Falcons placed a franchise tag on Grady Jarrett on while saying they still hope to negotiate a long-term contract with the defensive tackle.

The $15.209 million tag comes after Jarrett was a bright spot in the Falcons' disappointing 2018 season. Jarrett had 52 tackles and set career highs with six sacks and three forced fumbles as the leader of Atlanta's defensive front.

Jarrett, 25, was seen as one of the top free agents at defensive tackle. General manager Thomas Dimitroff had no intention of allowing Jarrett to become an unrestricted free agent on March 13.

In Kansas City, the Chiefs placed the franchise tag on outside linebacker Dee Ford, making official a decision the team had been leaning toward throughout the offseason.

Ford is coming off the best season of his career, piling up 13 sacks and forcing an NFL-leading seven fumbles. The Chiefs have expressed an interest in a long-term deal, though they are also open to trading him as they switch from a 3-4 to 4-3 base defense under new coordinator Steve Spagnuolo.

In other words, it's no sure thing Ford plays next season under the roughly $15.4 million tag.

In Seattle, with the market of pass rushers quickly shrinking, the Seahawks did what they could to keep one of their own in house.

The team announced it had placed the franchise tag on defensive end Frank Clark, who had a breakout campaign in 2018. The deadline for NFL teams to apply the franchise and transition tags is Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m. ET.

Based on numbers released by the NFL, Clark would be set to earn $17.13 million for the franchise tag.

In Houston, the Texans announced they have placed the franchise tag on Jadeveon Clowney, potentially keeping the edge rusher with the franchise for at least one more season.

Clowney and the Texans now have until the July 15 deadline for them to agree to terms of a long-term deal. If both sides cannot reach an agreement by then, Clowney will be forced to either sign the tag and play 2019 under those terms or sit out, similar to what former Pittsburgh Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell did this past season.

The tag the Texans placed on Clowney is non-exclusive, which means the team can match any potential offer sheets he would draw from other organizations during free agency. If the Texans decline to match an offer, they would receive two first-round selections from the team making the deal as compensation.

In San Francisco, the 49ers have signed offensive lineman Mike Person to a three-year contract extension.

Person was set to become an unrestricted free agent next week before signing the deal Monday to stay under contract with the 49ers through the 2021 season.

Person started 16 games at right guard last season despite dealing with various injuries. General manager John Lynch praised Person's toughness and the versatility he brings to the line with the ability to play center as well as guard.

The 30-year-old Person originally entered the league as a seventh-round pick by San Francisco in 2011.

South Korea sends Women's World Cup bid plan to North

SEOUL—A South Korea's soccer leadership has sent a proposal to North Korea to jointly bid for the 2023 Women's World Cup and is awaiting a response.

Combining to stage the FIFA showpiece could be a significant move toward building peace on the Korean Peninsula, which remains technically at war because the 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

The neighbors have been encouraged to bid by FIFA President Gianni Infantino, with the decision due to be taken in March 2020 by the governing body's ruling council.

Chung Mong-gyu, the president of South Korea's soccer association who sits on the FIFA Council, is pursuing the bid after gaining the initial support of his government.

"With regard to the possible joint bid with DPRK Football Association for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, we have sent our proposal to DPRK FA and are currently waiting to receive their official response," Chung said in a statement to The Associated Press on Tuesday, referring to North Korea by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

South Korean soccer officials tend to communicate with their counterparts in the north through the East Asian Football Federation.

There is a March 15 deadline to submit an expression of interest to FIFA. The bidding registration would then have to be sent by April 16 and countries have until Oct. 4 to present bid books to Zurich-based FIFA.

With Australia, Colombia, Japan and South Africa also exploring bids, the 2023 Women's World Cup looks like being the most hotly-contested hosting contest since the tournament began in 1991.

FIFA has also imposed the most rigorous bidding regulations to date — emulating most of the bidding process last year for the men's World Cup that saw a joint bid from the United States, Canada and Mexico win the right to stage the 2026 World Cup.

There will be an assessment of human rights and risk reports for all bidding nations, inspections of facilities and evaluation reports.

That could be a barrier to North Korea staging a World Cup, given concerns about human rights abuses, prison camps for dissidents, an absence of religious and speech freedoms.

A bid could also be hindered by the U.S.-led international sanctions that include restrictions on sporting equipment being sent to North Korea.

A summit between President Donald Trump and Korean leader Kim Jong Un broke down last week in a dispute over how much sanctions relief Washington should provide Pyongyang in return for nuclear disarmament steps.

South Korea President Moon Jae-in has been actively pushing for reconciliation with the North. At summits over the past year, the Koreas agreed vowed to resume economic cooperation and to jointly bid to stage the 2032 Summer Olympics.

June kickoff for qualifiers to 2022 WCup of 32 or 48 teams

ZURICH (AP)—Qualifying games for the 2022 World Cup will begin in Asia in June, though political tensions between Qatar and its neighbors means FIFA's push to expand the tournament is still uncertain.

FIFA's committee for organizing competitions confirmed on Monday the Asian Football Confederation will kick off the global program. Details from other continents "will follow in due course."

This gives FIFA until early June to decide on organizing a 32-team World Cup hosted by Qatar, or a 48-team event which would need to spread games around the Middle East.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has persistently pushed for an expanded World Cup, despite a limit of 28 days to play the tournament from Nov. 21-Dec. 18.

However, Qatar seems unlikely to agree on giving up some of the hosting rights it won in 2010.

Qatar is building just eight stadiums for a 64-game tournament while 12 is the ideal number for 48 teams playing 80 games.

FIFA's decision making runs through its ruling council meeting next week in Miami, and again in Paris days before the June 5 congress of 211 member federations.

FIFA members could favor giving themselves 16 more qualifying slots regardless of diplomatic tensions caused by an ongoing boycott of Qatar by regional rivals.

Pressure on Qatar has been led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. If Qatar eventually agrees to share hosting, Kuwait and Oman are thought more acceptable options.

A June kickoff for qualifying leaves up to three years to complete a program that typically runs to more than 800 games.

Qualifying for the 2018 World Cup took 2 1/2 years, from a preliminary game in March 2015 between East Timor and Mongolia through a November 2017 playoff involving Peru and New Zealand.

Wade breaks Jordan's record in win over Hawks

MIAMI (AP) — Dwyane Wade got into the record book for defense.

And he saved the Miami Heat with offense.

Wade scored 14 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and the Heat won their season-high third straight home game by topping the Atlanta Hawks 114-113 on Monday night. It was the highest-scoring quarter of the season for Wade, and it helped Miami beat Atlanta for the first time in four tries.

Wade's block of Atlanta's B.J. Johnson in the second quarter was a record-setter of sorts. It was the 1,052nd blocked shot of Wade's career, including playoffs—the most ever by a guard, one more than Michael Jordan. The regular-season mark still belongs to Jordan, who has 893 to Wade's 877.

"Either way, it's pretty cool," Wade said.

"That's textbook, Hall of Fame poise," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He's playing his best basketball of the season right now."

Josh Richardson scored 19 points and Justise Winslow added 18 for the Heat, who pulled into a tie with Charlotte for ninth place in the Eastern Conference. Dion Waiters scored 14 and Kelly Olynyk added 12.

Vince Carter scored 21 points, all on 3-pointers, for the Hawks—in his final head-to-head duel with Wade, and tipped his cap afterward.

"He's been a very dominant player for a long time and on your way out it's easy to say, 'I'm going to ride this out and enjoy it,'" Carter said. "But he's doing it like most Hall of Famers would do it—go at it and leave my greatness on the floor every night until you don't see it anymore."

Kent Bazemore had 18 points and Trae Young finished with 14 points and eight assists for the Hawks. Atlanta also got 14 points from Dewayne Dedmon and 13 from Kevin Huerter.

Wade made three consecutive jumpers, including a 3, to spark a 12-2 run in the fourth that took the Heat from down one to up by nine with about five minutes left.

"Got a couple shots to fall, you get in a rhythm," Wade said. "We needed it. Obviously, we've had a lot of trouble with this team."

The end was frantic, starting when Carter hit a pair of late 3-pointers to start the Atlanta rally.

Winslow fouled Young with 2:04 left, then picked up a technical as well. Young missed the technical free throw, then made both for the personal to get the Hawks to 111-107. And down by three, after a Heat turnover, Young had a blow-by for a layup that cut Miami's lead to 112-111 with 1:02 left.

Wade got free for a layup on the next possession to put Miami back up by three. Bazemore made a pair of foul shots with nine seconds left, but the Heat inbounded the ball and wound up running out the clock—with the Hawks never catching anyone to foul.

"We just fell asleep at the end," coach Lloyd Pierce said.

AP

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) goes up to shoot against Atlanta Hawks forward DeAndre' Bembry (95) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 4, 2019, in Miami.

Clippers 113, Lakers 105

In Los Angeles, Danilo Gallinari scored 23 points, Lou Williams added 21 and the Clippers beat the Lakers.

Gallinari led six Clippers scoring in double figures while they comfortably maintained a lead over their Staples Center co-tenants down the stretch.

The Clippers (37-29) took sole possession of seventh place in the Western Conference standings with their sixth win in eight games.

LeBron James scored 27 points and Rajon Rondo had a season-high 24 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds for the Lakers (30-34).

Spurs 104, Nuggets 103

In San Antonio, after struggling on a recent road trip, the San Antonio Spurs' improved defensive effort has helped them get some wins.

DeMar DeRozan had 24 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 22 as the Spurs withstood Denver's closing rally to hold on for a victory over the Nuggets.

San Antonio won its third straight, limiting the opposition to 99 points in those games after losing seven of eight on their annual Rodeo Road Trip.

"It almost seems like we've just been able to flip a switch, which isn't the easiest thing to do," Spurs guard Patty Mills said, "but we have in the last three games. It's been our defense that has won it for us."

Denver rallied from 21 points down and held San Antonio scoreless over the final 2 1/2 minutes, getting the final nine points to pull within one, but missed three shots and had a turnover in the final 16.2 seconds.

"We hit back, but it was a little too much to overcome," Nuggets guard Jamal Murray said.

Murray missed a 3-pointer with 16.2 seconds and a runner 5 seconds later but the Nuggets maintained possession as Spurs forward Rudy Gay tipped the ball out of bounds both times. Aldridge then slapped Nikola Jokic's pass down and Gay was fouled after capturing the loose ball.

Gay missed the ensuing free throws with 4 seconds remaining. After San Antonio committed a foul on the initial inbounds, Denver guard Gary Harris missed a turnaround 3-pointer over Patty Mills from the left corner off a broken play as time expired.

Pelicans 115, Jazz 112

In Salt Lake City, Jrue Holiday and Julius Randle each scored 30 points to rally the New Orleans Pelicans past the Utah Jazz.

Anthony Davis had 15 points and 11 rebounds in three quarters for the Pelicans. Davis didn't play in the fourth, but New Orleans still won its third straight game.

Jae Crowder and Kyle Korver scored 20 points apiece off the bench to lead the Jazz. Rudy Gobert added 19 points and 19 rebounds, and Donovan Mitchell had 19 points and nine assists.

Utah overcame a six-point deficit and took a 112-111 lead on Mitchell's layup with 43.9 seconds left. Elfrid Payton answered with a layup on the other end and Randle hit two free throws with 0.9 seconds remaining to close out a comeback win for New Orleans.

After trailing most of the way, the Pelicans finally succeeded in erasing Utah's lead late in the fourth quarter. Randle sparked a 22-2 run with back-to-back baskets. New Orleans completed the surge by scoring on six straight possessions, capped by Randle's layup, and took a 111-105 lead. Randle made five baskets during the run.

Suns 114, Bucks 104

In Phoenix, Kelly Oubre Jr. had 27 points and 13 rebounds, and the Suns rallied from a 10-point fourth quarter deficit to beat the NBA-best Milwaukee Bucks.

Devin Booker added 22 points and Deandre Ayton had 19 points and 12 rebounds, including a key layup with 35.8 seconds to play that gave the league-worst Suns a four-point lead.

All-Star Giannis Antetokounmpo had 21 points and 13 rebounds, and Malcolm Brogdon scored 19 points for the Bucks, who have lost two straight games for the first time this season. Milwaukee shot 36.8 percent as a team.

The Bucks led by 16 points in the first half, only to trail by three in the third quarter.

Milwaukee, the team with the NBA's best road record coming in, couldn't put away Phoenix in the final quarter.

Nets 127, Mavericks 88

In New York, the Nets needed a win, and they got their easiest one ever in Brooklyn.

DeMarre Carroll scored 22 points, Rodions Kurucs had 19 and the Nets easily snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

Caris LeVert added 18 points and Spencer Dinwiddie finished with 16 on a night the Nets shook up their starting lineup but were fueled by their reserves. The 39-point margin was their most lopsided victory at home—and matched their biggest victory overall—since moving from New Jersey in 2012.

"This was definitely a game for us to build off of," guard D'Angelo Russell said. "Coming into this one, we knew we had to get it. We know we've got a tough stretch coming up so we need all the confidence we can get."

Lakers' playoff hopes on life support

LOS ANGELES—Mathematically, the Los Angeles Lakers remain in contention for a spot in the NBA playoffs.

Realistically, those chances are dead after Monday night.

The Lakers lost to the Los Angeles Clippers 113-105 and fell further behind their crosstown rival and the San Antonio Spurs in pursuit of the No. 8 playoff seed in the Western Conference.

The Lakers (30-34) lost for the fifth time in six games. They led 82-79 with 2:50 left in the third quarter before the Clippers (37-29) went on a 10-0 run and took control of the game.

"They just had more energy at the end," Lakers star LeBron James said about the deciding factor of the game.

The Clippers (37-29), seventh in the Western Conference standings, now have a six-game lead over the Lakers and a 3½-game-game lead over the Sacramento Kings. The Spurs, currently in the eighth spot, are 5½ games ahead of the Lakers. Both the Kings (32-31) and Spurs (36-29) also won on Monday.

James, facing the prospect of missing the postseason for the first time since his second year in the NBA, scored a team-high 27 points in the Lakers' loss at Staples Center.

The experience of missing the postseason will be far more familiar to Lakers fans, whose team has not made the playoffs since 2013. This year's disappointment will be especially painful with James expected to have helped end the team's postseason drought during his first year with the team.

Tiger pulls out of Bay Hill with neck strain

ORLANDO — At 2:24pm, ET on Monday, the golf world shook.

Tiger Woods, who came to own the Arnold Palmer Invitational with his dominance starting in 2000, announced via Twitter he was withdrawing from this week's tournament at Bay Hill Club & Lodge due to a neck strain.

While there was some comfort to latch onto—he wrote his surgically repaired lower back is fine and there are no-long term issues—this is a 43-year-old Woods with a history of serious operations on his left knee and spine we're talking about.

Four procedures to his left knee. Four to his back, the most recent a spinal fusion surgery in April 2017. And there was an assortment of other injuries he had to deal with over the years to his neck, Achilles, elbow, wrist.

Despite his reassurances, the world of golf will hold its collective breath until he's seen again, possibly in less than 10 days at The Players, the PGA Tour's flagship event.

AP

Tiger Woods lines up a putt on the 15th hole during the last round of the Hero World Challenge at Albany Golf Club in Nassau, Bahamas, Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018.

"Unfortunately, due to a neck strain that I've had for a few weeks, I'm forced to withdraw from the API," Woods wrote. "I've been receiving treatment, but it hasn't improved enough to play. My lower back is fine, and I have no long-term concerns, and I hope to be ready for The Players."

Woods went on to write he would send his regrets to the Palmer family and the fans in Orlando, writing it is one of his favorite tournaments.

There was a lot to digest in the two tweets he sent out, especially where he wrote he's been dealing with the neck strain for "a few weeks" and has been receiving treatment. While he wrote his back is fine, this is not a good sign.

In his last start two weeks ago in the WGC-Mexico Championship in Mexico City, where he tied for 10th, there was no visible indication his neck was bothering him nor was there any verbal sign (Woods refused to speak to the media after the final two rounds).

Just as concerning is Woods' rhythm. The best player of his generation has long talked about finding a rhythm to the season, especially heading into major championships. It's a certain cadence he covets, a preferred pace to his play, a repetitive feel for the club and his swing he desires.

While the Masters is six weeks down Magnolia's Road, there now is concern with this withdrawal that the four-time Masters champion could be off tempo by the time he sees the emerald fairways, the white cottages and the Georgia Pines.

The world's No. 12-ranked player has played just three times this year. In his second start, the Genesis Open in Los Angeles became a disjointed affair due to chilly, rain-delaying weather and Woods didn't play on Thursday, logged 30 holes on Friday, 14 on Saturday and 28 on Sunday.

The following week, he struggled with the thin air at the Mexico Championship—the course rests 7,800 feet above sea level—so little rhythm was built upon.

And now he doesn't get to play a tournament he's won a record eight times and used as the optimal tune-up for the Masters.

Serena could face Azarenka in first round

CALIFORNIA—The women's draw for the BNP Paribas Open was held Monday and fans gathered to watch the names fall into the bracket, listen to music and sit – let's be honest, nap—in some comfy Adirondack chairs.

But peppered among the crowd are people with a lot at stake as the names magically popped up on the board. Players, of course, love to look at the draw and lament or feel good about their position. But it's tournament organizers who are looking at the board most intently.

They want the top players and famous names to last as long as possible in the tournament. Early matchups of high-name-recognition players, like last year's Venus vs. Serena Round-of-32 matchup are what they are trying to avoid.

This year's draw was a mixed bag in that respect. Here are my four quick takes after looking at this year's draw.

Serena, the No. 10 seed this year, may have a very interesting first match of the tournament. Williams is lined up to perhaps play Victoria Azarenka, not exactly the easy opening match to get her feet wet she may have wanted. The two met in the 2016 championship here with Azarenka winning and since that meeting, both players have had children.

By the way, as far as a Williams vs. Williams matchup, it wouldn't happen until the finals in that they are on opposite ends of the draw.

In case you wondered if the vagaries of the draw really make a difference, I give to you the case of No. 3 seed Petra Kvitová and No. 26 seed Carla Suarez Navarro.

As the names of the 64 unseeded players dropped into their slots to set up who the seeded players would play their first match against, here's what happened. Kvitova will play the winner of V. Williams and A. Petkovic. Yes, that's Venus Williams, who at No. 36 in the world was outside the 32 seeds this year and Andrea Petkovic a former top-10 player.

Suarez Navarro, on the other hand, will play the winner of "qualifier" and "qualifier." So the No. 3 seed could play 36th-ranked Venus Williams, while the No. 26 seed will play someone outside the Top 75 who had to win Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday just to get to her. So, yes, the draw matters.

Just in depth of potentially difficult opponents, I'd have to say No. 1 seed Naomi Osaka didn't get a lot of love from the draw gods. She has a potential third-round matchup with American Danielle Collins and a potential fourth-round matchup with either Belinda Bencic who is playing great tennis right now or former champion Caroline Wozniacki. At the bottom of her draw is the No. 5 seed Karolina Pliskova who would be a potential quarterfinal matchup just to reach the semis.

AYUYUS

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Schools Association Varsity Basketball League yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

With the tally pegged at 30-25, in the Ayuyus' favor, at the end of the second quarter, Kagman pulled away for good at the resumption of play with a 19-point third quarter scoring outburst.

The Ayuyus and Knights 2 showcased different playing styles, with the former relying on their post players and the latter leaning on their sharpshooters. In the end, Kagman's dominance in the paint overpowered Mt. Carmel 2.

J.D. Magofna muscled his way in the shaded lane en route to a team-high 12 points, while Dean Blake and Henry Aguon contributed to the Ayuyus' victory after making 11 markers apiece. Kobe Lifoifoi rounded out the Ayuyus' double-digit performers with his 10 points.

The towering and speedy Ayuyus played to their strengths and overwhelmed their opposition with multiple post moves and fastbreak baskets. Kagman threatened to pull away in the first quarter after building a 20-6 lead, forcing MCS 2 coach John Hernandez to call his shooters to bring them back into contention. The Knights' snipers—Merrick Toves, Richard Steele, and John San Nicolas—rose to the occasion and teamed up for 20 points in the remaining minutes of the first half to move MCS 2 within 5 at the break. Toves, Steele, and John combined for five three pointers in the second quarter, but they were not able to carry their momentum in the second half, allowing Kagman to break away.

With the victory, Kagman improved to a 6-1 record and kept the No. 2 spot in the team standings behind the unbeaten Saipan Southern High School (6-0). The Knights 2, on the other hand, fell to seventh place and have only won one out of seven games.

Meanwhile, the Manta Rays stretched their winning streak to six after waltzing past Agape Christian School 1 in the second game, 61-39.

With the loss to the league-leading Saipan Southern, Agape 1 slipped to No. 5 in the team rankings and fell to an even 3-3 mark.

Agape 1 hopes to bounce back today when it takes on MCS 2 at the Koblerville Gymnasium at 3:30pm. Over at the Saipan International School court in As Lito, the Geckos will host Kagman. Two more games are scheduled for today with the visiting MCS 1 battling Agape 2 in the latter's Gualo Rai turf and Grace Christian Academy facing Saipan Southern at the Eagles court.

KHS, 63 — Magofna 12, Aguon 11, Blake 11, Lifoifoi 10, Blas 4, Sacdalan 4, Quitano 4, Agulto 4, Augustino 2, Reyes 2.

MCS 2 42 — Toves 20, Steele 11, Salvador 8, John San Nicolas 5.

Scoring by quarters: 9-8, 24-17, 41-29, 51-44.

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In the women's event, Japan's Yuko Nakazawa won six of the seven rounds to emerge as division champion. Saipan resident Fish Wong and Japan's Mie Santo joined Nakazawa in the podium, while Hiromi Konita, Hiromi Matagolai, Mieko Omasu, and H.K. Yang were the other participants in the women's division.

Windsurfing Saipan, Inc. organized the 37th Micronesian Open, which drew support from Hyatt Regency Saipan, T Galleria/DFS Saipan, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

SEAN

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6-1, 6-2.

Earlier in the first singles match, Elie eked out a 7-6 (4), 6-2 triumph over Davith Sam. While Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy eased past Nel in the other singles game, 6-0, 6-2, to secure the early win for Pacific Oceania.

With the sweep, Lee and company are assured of a quarterfinals slot in the qualifier. The Top 2 finishers in the four groups after the pool play matches will move into the quarterfinals. Pacific Oceania is in Group A, which also has Turkmenistan.

Pacific Oceania collided with Turkmenistan yesterday afternoon with the former ahead, 1-0, thanks to Elie's win over Amir Bashimov in the opening singles game. Mainguy was slated to play in the other singles event and later scheduled to join forces with Lee in the doubles.

Pacific Oceania is hoping to finish in the Top 2 of the 16-team field to earn a spot in the qualifying finals that will be played next month, also in Sri Lanka.

In other results, Syria leads Group B following its 3-0 win over Vietnam, while Bangladesh completes the pool. In Group C, unranked Singapore stunned No. 3 seed Lebanon, 2-1, while Malaysia and Sri Lanka won the Group D opening games after blanking Bahrain and Oman, respectively.

Meanwhile, in the Junior Fed Cup, Pacific Oceania also earned a sweep in the opener after dominating Singapore in their Group B match.

Fiji's Saoirse Breen topped Clare Cheng, 6-0, 6-3, while Samoa's Eleanor Schuster outclassed Lerr Min Lim, 7-6 (6), 6-0, to secure the victory for Pacific Oceania. Breen and Schuster went on to cap their impressive showing in the first day of the tournament after slipping past Cheng and Trisha Mulani, 4-6, 6-2, 10-7.

Pacific Oceania was slated to close out pool play yesterday against Qatar and the Solomon Islands' Zorika Morgan gave the Roxanne Clarke-captain squad a 1-0 advantage after beating Dana Mohammed Al Mudahka, 6-2, 6-2. Another victory over Qatar would have assured Pacific Oceania a spot in the six-team playoffs.

In other results, the Philippines downed Vietnman in Group A match, 3-0, and the former was also ahead of Bangladesh, 1-0, after yesterday's first single game. In Group C, Jordan and Lebanon scored similar shutout wins over Turkmenistan and Kyrgyztan, respectively.

Triple J 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two female runners celebrate as they near completion of last Saturday's Triple J 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk.

Runners sprint as they are a few meters away from the finish line.

Volunteers throw colored powder to runners along Beach Road.

Saipan International School headmaster Ron Snyder poses for a photo on his way to the finish line.

IT&E CNMI general manager Rose Soledad keeps a steady pace on her way to the finish line.

Mother and daughter Ayano and Kaya Braxton hold hands as they run along Beach Road.

Young runners play at the bubble machine area after completing the race.

A kid is having fun with the bubbles.

Cowboys putting franchise tag on Lawrence again

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wade breaks Jordan's record in win over Hawks

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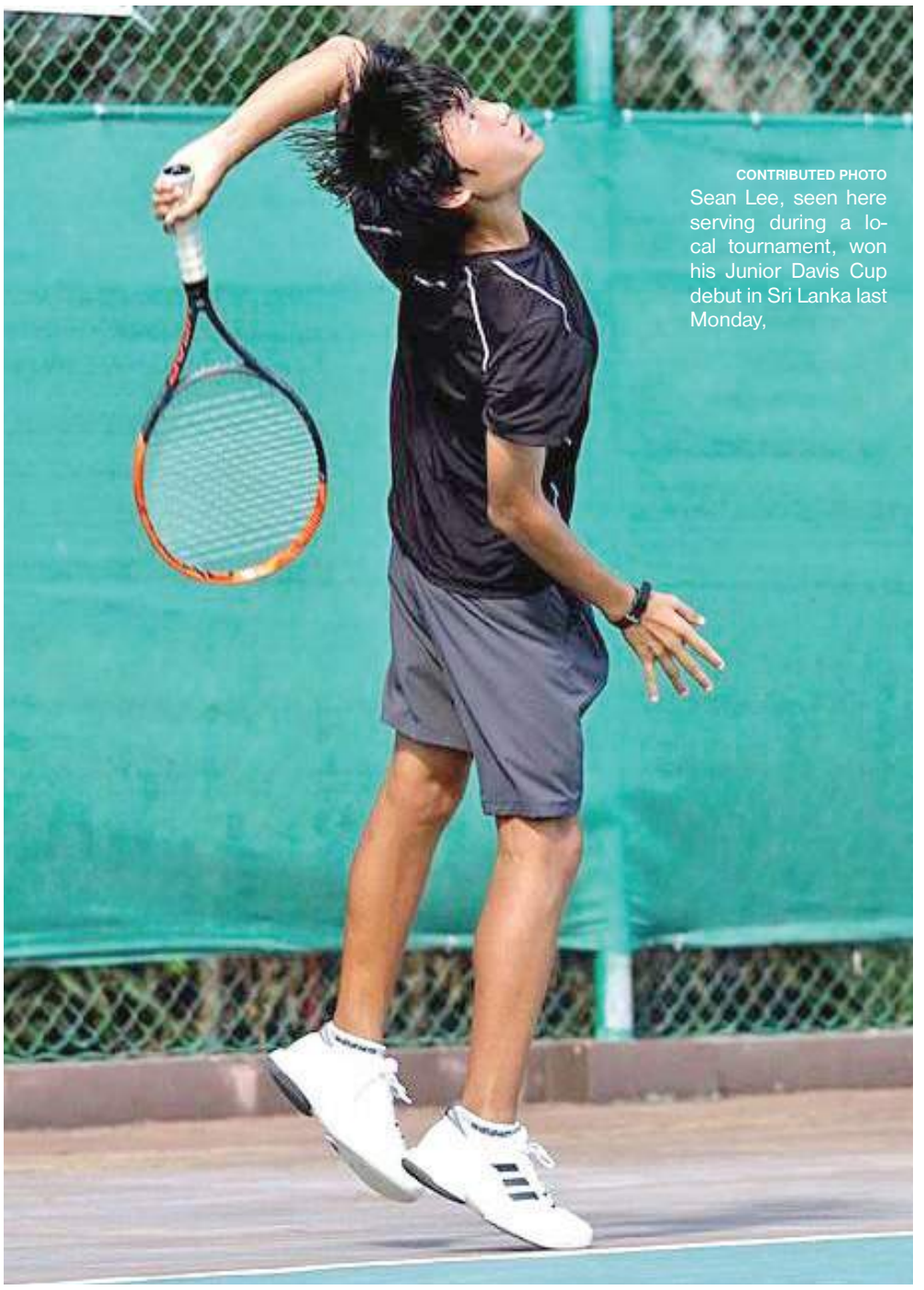
Sean wins Junior Davis Cup debut



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sean Lee, seen here serving during a local tournament, won his Junior Davis Cup debut in Sri Lanka last Monday,

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Sean Lee had a winning debut in the Junior Davis Cup, as Pacific Oceania swept its opener in the Asia/Oceania Pre-Qualifying Event last Monday in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Lee played in the doubles event, teaming up with Tahiti's Manovai Elie and the Pacific Oceania pair defeated Cambodia's Chaya Chhieu and Samnang Nel after only two sets,

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Over 20 windsurfers compete in Micro Open

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Colorful rigs and surfing boards sailed through the waters off Micro Beach over the weekend, as more than 20 windsurfers participated in the 37th Micronesian Open.

In the men's division, 20 windsurfer from Saipan, Japan, and Korea navigated their way through the waves and winds at Micro Beach, while the women's category had seven participants.

Saipan resident Wataru Tajima ended up ruling the men's field after earning first place honors in all seven races. Japan's Katsuya Ikawa and Yuji Yahaba completed the Top 3. Plaques and other in-kind prizes were handed out to the Top 3 finishers during the awards ceremony held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Sunday.

Other finishers in the men's field were Mitsuru Tsukada, Naohiro Ota, Kong, Masao Hirota, Keiji Sakamoto, Shinya Anami, Hidetoshi Nitta, Mamoru Hatamata, Hideaki Mibu, Kenichiro Hayashi, Akira Shibasaki, Shin Endo, Hiroshi Higurashi Akira Otake, Kenji Okada, Jin Man Kim, and Yu Jun Kang.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Windsurfers navigate their way through the waters off Micro Beach during last weekend's 37th Micronesian Open.

Ayuyus march past Knights 2

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Kagman High School cruised past Mount Carmel school 2, 63-42, during the first game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private

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ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Kagman High School's Dean Blake, right, towers above Mt. Carmel School 2 defenders Merrick Toves and James San Nicolas during their game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.